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Volume CLXXXVII No. 2441 The SPHERE, London, November 2, 1946

THE SPHERE
With which is incorporated "THE GRAPHIC"
The Empire's Illustrated Weekly

THE ROYAL BRIDESMAIDS AT ROMSEY—THE MARRIAGE OF LORD BRABOURNE TO THE HON. PATRICIA MOUNTBATTEN: Princess Elizabeth, the Hon. Pamela Mountbatten (the bride's sister), Princess Alexandra of Kent and Princess Margaret leaving the Abbey after the service

The King and Queen and the Princesses were present last week at Romsey Abbey at the wedding of Captain Lord Brabourne, of the Coldstream Guards, to the Hon. Patricia Mountbatten, elder daughter of Admiral Viscount Mountbatten of Burma and Viscountess Mountbatten. There were scenes of great enthusiasm in Romsey for the Royal occasion, and vast crowds packed the streets to watch the guests arriving at the Abbey. The bridesmaids, Princess Elizabeth, Princess Margaret, Princess Alexandra of Kent and the Hon. Pamela Mountbatten, wore full-skirted blue crepe dresses and carried wreaths of blue gentians and yellow rose petals. After the ceremony there were two receptions, both of which were attended by the King and Queen, and at both of which the King proposed the health of Lord Brabourne and his bride. The first reception was at Broadlands, home of Viscount Mountbatten, and the second was at Crosfield Hall, where estate employees made presentations to the bride and bridegroom. (See also page 131)

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A LONDON NEWSLETTER

1, NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C.1.

Communism and All Its Works.

—Russian dictators, whether they anticipated it or no, have by their policy and actions in international affairs, brought on Communism the very ugliest name that ever it wore in Western eyes, a name to-day as ugly as Hitler's Nazism and half at least as dangerous. If Stalin and his thirteen desire only to be left secure for national reconstruction, how possibly can this result benefit Russia or her satellites, how can it be other than the legacy of bungling, muddled thinking and myopia? The last worm has turned at length in the West, the tail of even the British lion has been so twisted that from its mouthpiece have come quite fierce growls. Mr. Attlee has been stung to some purpose; some may even say to excess. Well, it is out now. Mr. Attlee and Mr. Churchill are as brothers on the subject of the poison and sheer dangers of Communism. Both know quite well that there are spread over Europe, poised and equipped on a war footing, 200 Russian divisions. Both are highly educated men, versed in history and politics. Both can read the lessons of history over 150 years. While France nurtured a megalomaniac dictatorship and a score of young marshals, raised to glory by war and still ambitious, there could be no lasting peace for Europe. Such efforts as were made to stave off war were made by means of half-hearted alliances against aggression or flabby appeasements, and those were the expedients which alone suggested themselves when Hitler took Napoleon's role. They were not successful, as we recall. There is no hope to-day in anything half-hearted.

Name the Aggressor.

—Half-heartedness has failed. Nothing but courage, determination and real and loyal unity can save civilisation from eternal insecurity. The only doubt in my mind is the name and nature of the branded aggressor of our day. Is it the political theory called Communism, or is it a dozen men who are dictators in the mightiest nation which now wears that label? This dilemma confronts civilisation. Every sane, peace-loving nation, banishing its fears and its own national aims, is bound by oath and by reason to stand firm against an aggressor, in loyal union with every other. But it is debarred by its charter from interfering with the political method or theory of government preferred or practised by any other nation. The wars of 1914 and 1939 were forced on us by the insane ambition of a handful of men who can be named. If another world war in our time come (and there remain alive any historian to comment on it), will the ascertained cause be a political theory or, once more, a handful of men who misdirected it to their own personal ends? It is arguable that all the force and resources and loyalty of the still sane nations should to-day be canalised to resist not a theory, but a handful of saboteurs. Those resources can never be canalised in time, while any sane nation continues to concern itself more with its domestic problems and politics than with the mortal danger to which civilisation is heading once again.

The United Nations.

—Il champagne flowing unlimited, strawberries out of season, and all those delicacies and amenities to which we have so long been strangers in poor old England, if these delights can help to achieve understanding and brotherhood among the nations labelled United, the *Queen Elizabeth* will have done her maiden best. And since it is peace or destruction by atom bombs or atrophy, the champagne and quails were cheap at the price. And national intercession to Heaven has been offered also. So England may argue that she has done, and is doing, her best to conciliate, to disarm enmity and suspicion, to make a success of a Conference on whose results the fate of tottering civilisation may well hang. Whether it be a last chance and hope, whether, should it clearly reach impasse or register failure, other opportunities may arise and be successfully embraced, I do not know. That a measure of signal success now is vital and overdue, if reconstruction and a return to order are to advance perceptibly, of that I am sure.

THE SALVAGING OF THE MAJOR HALF OF THE "HELENA MODJESKA": The stern half of the merchant ship, containing a cargo valued at £250,000, being taken in tow by tugs after being aground on the Goodwins for forty days. The salvaging of the ship has been a triumph of persistence, and it seemed when the "Helena Modjeska" broke in half last month through the battering of the sea, that very little would be saved from the wreck. At the time of writing, efforts are being made to refloat the fore part of the vessel, which contains cargo of less value. When the "Helena Modjeska" went aground on the Goodwins in September she was en route to Bremerhaven with equipment for the United States zone of Germany. After the wreck the captain was found dead in a Ramsgate hotel

"'Tis Not in Mortals . . ."—

"'Tis not in mortals to command success, But we 'll do more, Sempronius, we 'll deserve it." The time has come (and almost gone) when the chief representatives of the United Nations should remember that famous tag of Mr. Addison's (usually attributed to Shakespeare). For if one thing is certain in this fogbound world, it is that 90 per cent. of the countless millions who are represented at the table did, and still do, desire peace and conciliation beyond all other things; beyond reparations, new boundaries, even beyond new defences. And as large a percentage still go in terror of the fate of their children in the new atomic age. These millions did not personally and directly select their delegates or mouthpieces. But, in less or greater degree, they may all be said to have desired, elected or otherwise accepted the Governments which did select those mouthpieces. Nothing is more certain than that, in so far as those millions could give a mandate to the delegates, that mandate was for *peace* at almost any sacrifice of national sovereignty, and certainly of all nationalistic acquisitiveness. Under such a mandate no delegate has any right whatever to political opinions of his own, howsoever much he may believe such personal views to be for the greater aggrandisement or benefit of his own nation. The mouthpiece of two or three persons may be forgiven if he argue in a personal way. The mouthpiece of a million must be utterly impersonal. His own personal vanity and private opinions must influence in no smallest degree the attainment of the supreme purpose of his mandate. It seems to me that scores of delegates in the U.N. have entirely forgotten or rejected this principle. There should be "no such persons" as M. Molotov, or, for that matter, as Mr. Byrnes or M. Quelque-chose. In their places should rise and speak for peace the voices of Russia, America or what-not. These men cannot command success, but it is high time that they should at least begin to deserve it; and they will only so begin when they accept their briefs, and remember that they themselves possess *ad hoc* no *personal* vanity which may be wounded by defeats or tickled by wordy victories.

Churchill at His Best.—

Mr. Churchill's speech on the first day of the Foreign Affairs debate seemed to me Churchill at his best; seemed to me to underline the argument (and plea) that he should keep out of the gutter of party warfare and avoid scraps with Mr. Morrison and company, and, from the eminence of his great achievements and experience, speak loftily and courageously of such dangers as he sees ahead and how, in his view, they may be averted. I am convinced that Elder Statesmen of his degree of merit should never stoop to score a wordy point in guerilla fighting. Some Member-critics of his speech branded it as dangerous because he mentioned the possibility of war. They argue the old idea that talking of war leads to war. In truth, talking about peace and security led us soon enough to that crater-edge of anxiety. No voice can be loud enough, authoritative enough or repetitive enough to warn the backward peoples or the imprisoned peoples of how real the danger is. And nothing but world opinion, clearly expressed, can induce a change of heart in some of the delegates. Other critics suggested that Mr. Churchill must have made an impious secret treaty with the Government to raise this bogy of war and to watch European reactions. Why such a "secret treaty" should be impious, I cannot comprehend. It appears to me as sheer sanity that, if ever such a need arise, Mr. Attlee should consult the Opposition leaders with all the facts at his disposal, and use Mr. Churchill's and Mr. Eden's great experience as best it may be used in the interests of Britain. It must seem odd to half the nation at least that it should be denied the best part of the nation's experience in statesmanship because the Government in power fears loss of face or the suspicion of its Left wing.

"Betting-Tax Hint."—

Mr. Dalton: "I promised I would consider a tax on betting. I am doing so." Well, say I, thank God for that hint. Mr. Dalton tells us sometimes, with a song in his heart, that we owe him a debt of gratitude, and time may prove him to be right. At the moment, there is nothing for which I, personally (and, I should imagine, many a housewife and mother and the bulk of those who in this country remain more or less sane), would thank him so much as for the implementation of this hint. Governments of all colours have looked at the problem, wrung their hands over the technical difficulties and dropped it like a hot potato. To-day our Governments, while perpetually crying "work hard, save money," are in the position of authorising the means of gambling, winking at every form of betting which can just evade the loose regulations, almost of encouraging the exploiters and the methods of "light come, light go." Can there exist a greater hypocrisy than this official attitude of mind, this lethargy to curb or penalise an evil which is the first enemy of hard work and thrift? In every street, where savings-collectors pay their calls, there are men and women, honourably employed, wasting their earnings on betting and football pools and on dog-tracks. And for these pleasures they make no contribution to the needs of the State. The honest fool, the thrifty and the prudent, must continue to pay through the nose in order that the "fat-men" may grow fatter and the fools continue in their folly.

THE OLD STAGER

WEDDING GROUP AT ROMSEY: After the marriage of Lord Brabourne and the Hon. Patricia Mountbatten. Left to right, back row—Duchess of Kent, Viscount Mountbatten, Lord Brabourne, H.M. the King, Viscountess Mountbatten and Sqd.-Ldr. St. John. Centre row—Doreen Lady Brabourne, the Dowager Marchioness of Milford Haven, the bride, H.M. the Queen, and Agatha Marchioness of Sligo. Front row—The bridesmaids

THE ROYAL FAMILY at the MOUNTBATTEN WEDDING

Below—THE RECEPTION AT CROSFIELD HALL: The scene on the platform after the King had proposed the health of Lord Brabourne and his bride. Reading from left to right are—The Hon. Pamela Mountbatten, Princess Margaret, Doreen Lady Brabourne (the bridegroom's mother), Lord Mountbatten of Burma, H.M. the Queen, the bride and bridegroom, H.M. the King, Lady Mountbatten, Princess Elizabeth and Sqd.-Ldr. St. John (the best man)

THE KING AND QUEEN LEAVING THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE: Their Majesties, followed by Lord Halifax, in his capacity as Chancellor of the University, walking in the procession to the Bodleian Library for the Royal opening of the extension building. They had just attended a special convocation in the Sheldonian at which they received a loyal address in Latin delivered by the Public Orator. The King and Queen spent an exceedingly active day in the life of the University, also visiting Queen's College, of which Her Majesty is patroness, and Corpus Christi; attending founder's prayers in the cathedral; and dining in hall at Christ Church. Oxford was gaily decorated for the occasion and both city and university shared in the welcome

THE KING AT THE BODLEIAN

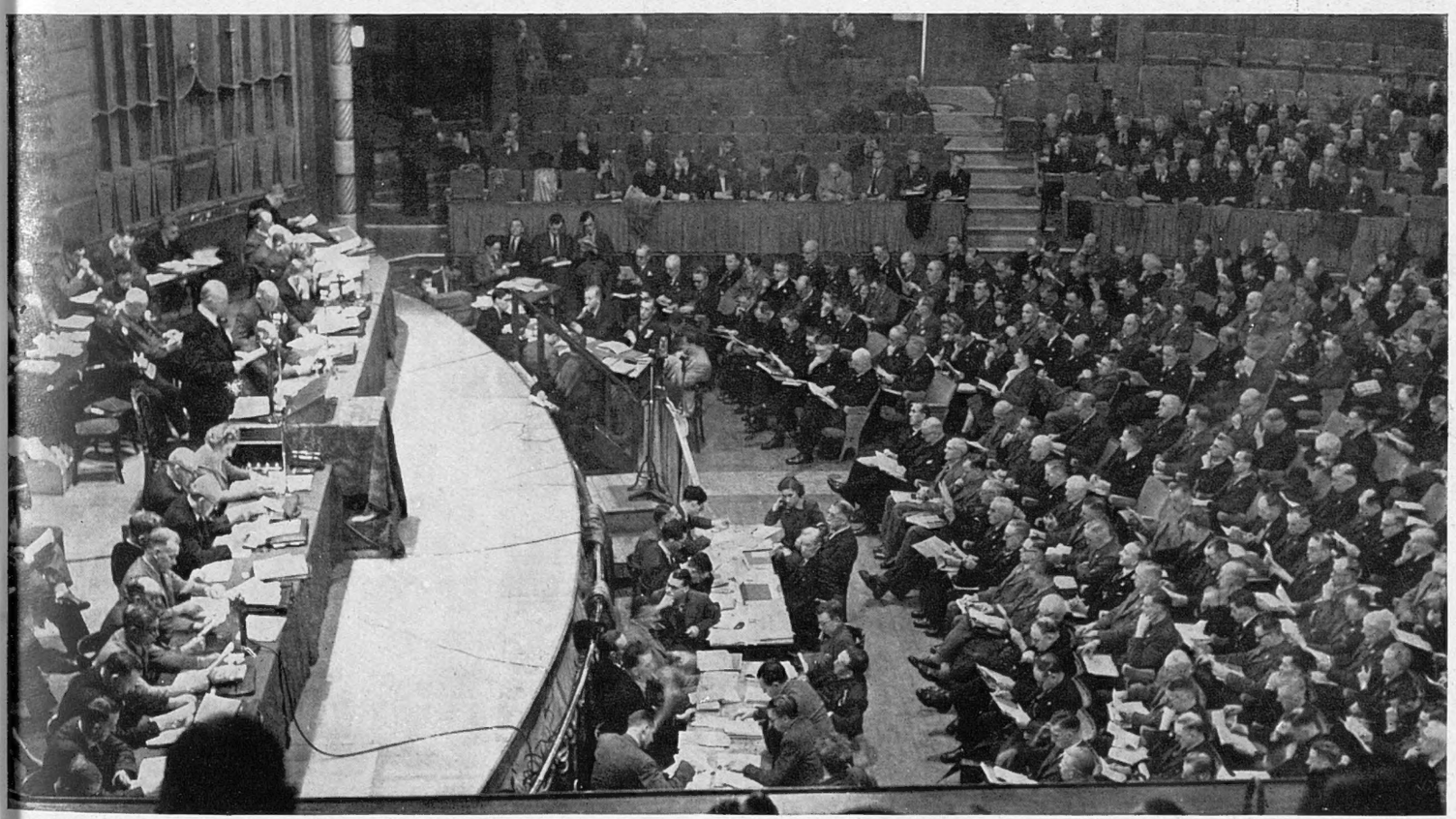
Opening the 10,000,000-book Extension to Oxford's Famous Library

UNLOCKING THE BODLEIAN—THE ROYAL OPENING THAT LOST ITS FORMALITY: The King and Sir Giles Scott, architect of the Bodleian extension, entering the building after the contretemps at the door when the silver key failed to function. *On left*—The King is seen enjoying the situation as Sir Giles also tries his hand with the key. Eventually the door had to be unlocked from within, and the party, without the usual solemnity on such occasions, entered the new building. (See also pages 152-53 of this issue for details of the new building)

LISTENING TO THE WARTIME LEADER: The scene on Alamein Day at the Albert Hall as Mr. Churchill addressed the great gathering of men who fought the Desert campaign under Montgomery

ALAMEIN DAY

With the Eighth Army's shield at the back of the platform, and Corps and Divisional signs adorning the rest of the Albert Hall, an audience of over 5,000 ex-soldiers, the men who fought at the decisive, never-to-be-forgotten Battle of Alamein, gathered on the evening of Alamein Day to hear the wartime leaders, Mr. Churchill and Viscount Montgomery, recall the achievements of the past. Greeted by a storm of cheering when he was led on to the flood-lighted platform, Mr. Churchill declared: "You are right to celebrate this memorable anniversary. Alamein was not only a famous victory; it was the turning-point in the war. Up to Alamein we survived. After Alamein we conquered, and never stopped conquering until final victory was achieved." Most of the 5,000 men in the audience wore civilian clothes, and it was difficult to believe that four years ago they were living together amid the dust-storms and the blazing heat of the Western Desert



THE MEETING OF THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS: A session in progress at Brighton where Mr. Attlee made a momentous policy speech. The Premier's attack on the Communist Party was, indeed, one of the great features of the gathering

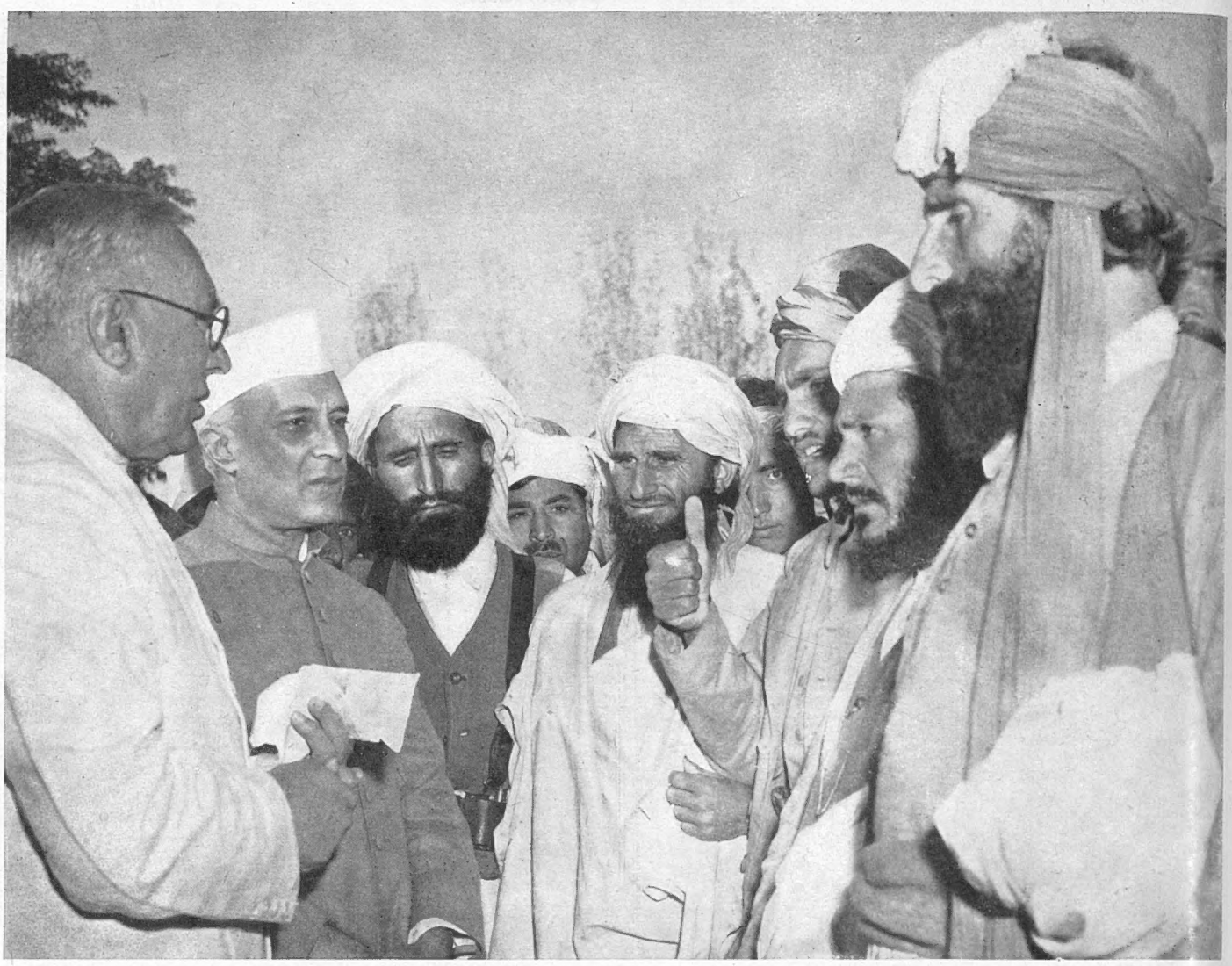
T.U.C. AT BRIGHTON

The seventy-eighth Congress of the Trades Union Council, that powerful prop of Britain's Labour Government, took place in Brighton last week and, just as expected, produced political fireworks of the first order. It was neither the debate on the forty-hour week nor the debate on the Closed Shop that produced the excitement, however, but Mr. Attlee's blunt statement on the policy and actions of the Communist Party in this country, and his plain warning to Russia of the continued consequence of her policy of secrecy and suspicion. The Prime Minister was more outspoken than he has ever been on any occasion since his accession to power, and he declared that the Security Council of the United Nations had already brought itself into disrepute by its display of disunity and ineffectiveness. Another important matter before the Congress was the question of the future treatment of Franco's Spain

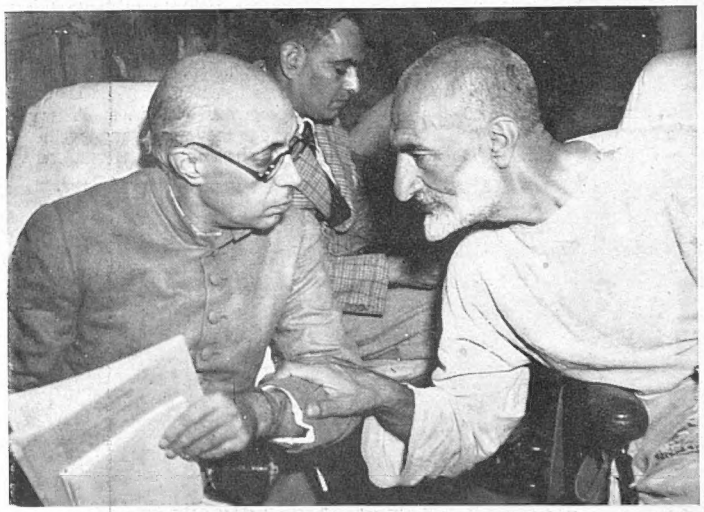
NEHRU on the N.-W. FRONTIER

India's Chief Minister of State has a Very Mixed Reception

The visit of Pandit Nehru, India's new Chief Minister, to Peshawar and the Khyber Pass, on the North-West Frontier of India, brought him into considerable danger and, as noted on page 138 of this issue, he was ambushed, stoned and fired upon by the tribesmen as he penetrated the hinterland of Waziristan in order to learn the views of the turbulent peoples of the frontier. Some of the meetings with the tribesmen went off well, but it was apparent that the Muslim League had done its best to stir up trouble before the start of the tour. At the end of the tour Mr. Nehru indicated, not without a touch of irony, that it was high time that the blessings of civilisation should be brought to these people

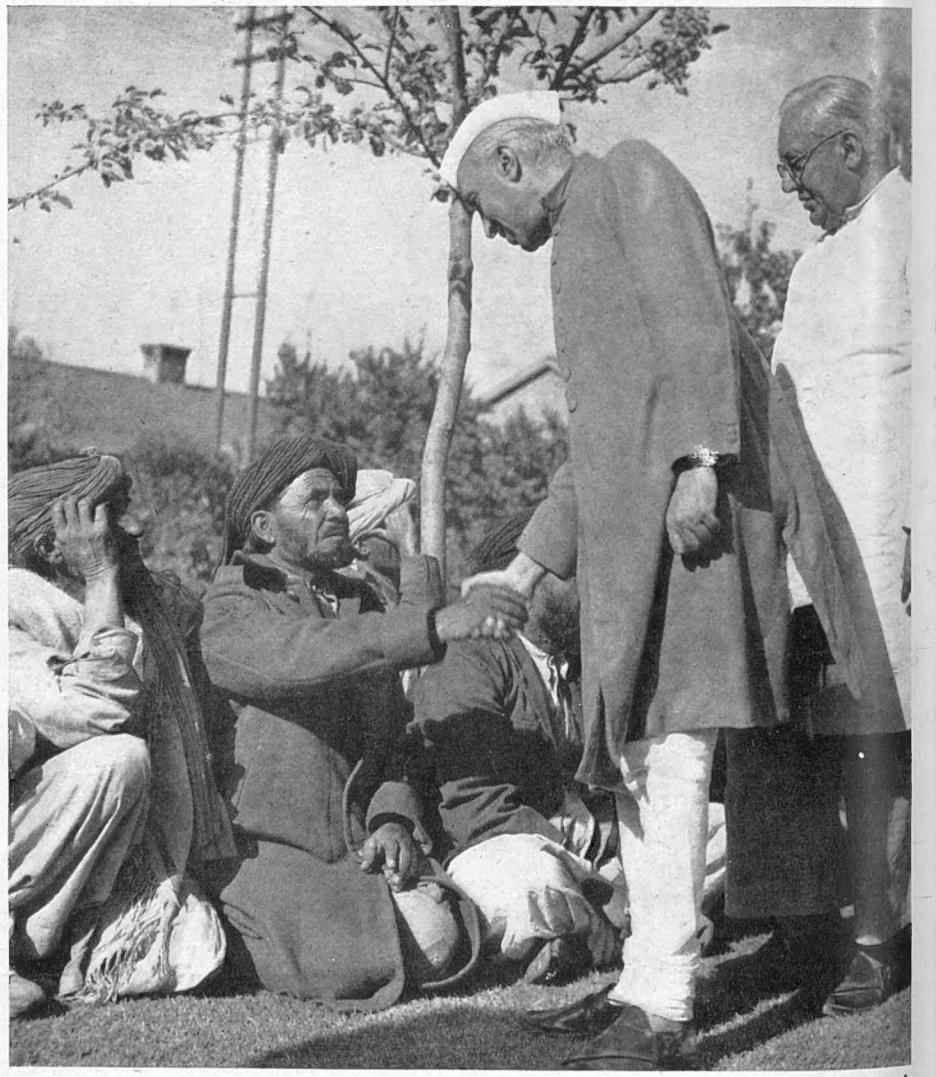


PANDIT NEHRU TALKS WITH THE TRIBAL LEADERS: India's Chief Minister seen with a group of tribesmen at Razmak, on the borders of Waziristan. These tribesmen had not been admitted to the fort where the official talks took place, as they are regarded as outlaws by the British Government authorities on the frontier. Mr. Nehru insisted on talking to them, however, and declared that he had obtained much information through the contact. On the left of Mr. Nehru is Dr. Khan Sahib, Premier of the North-West Frontier Province, who was largely responsible for the arrangement of the tour

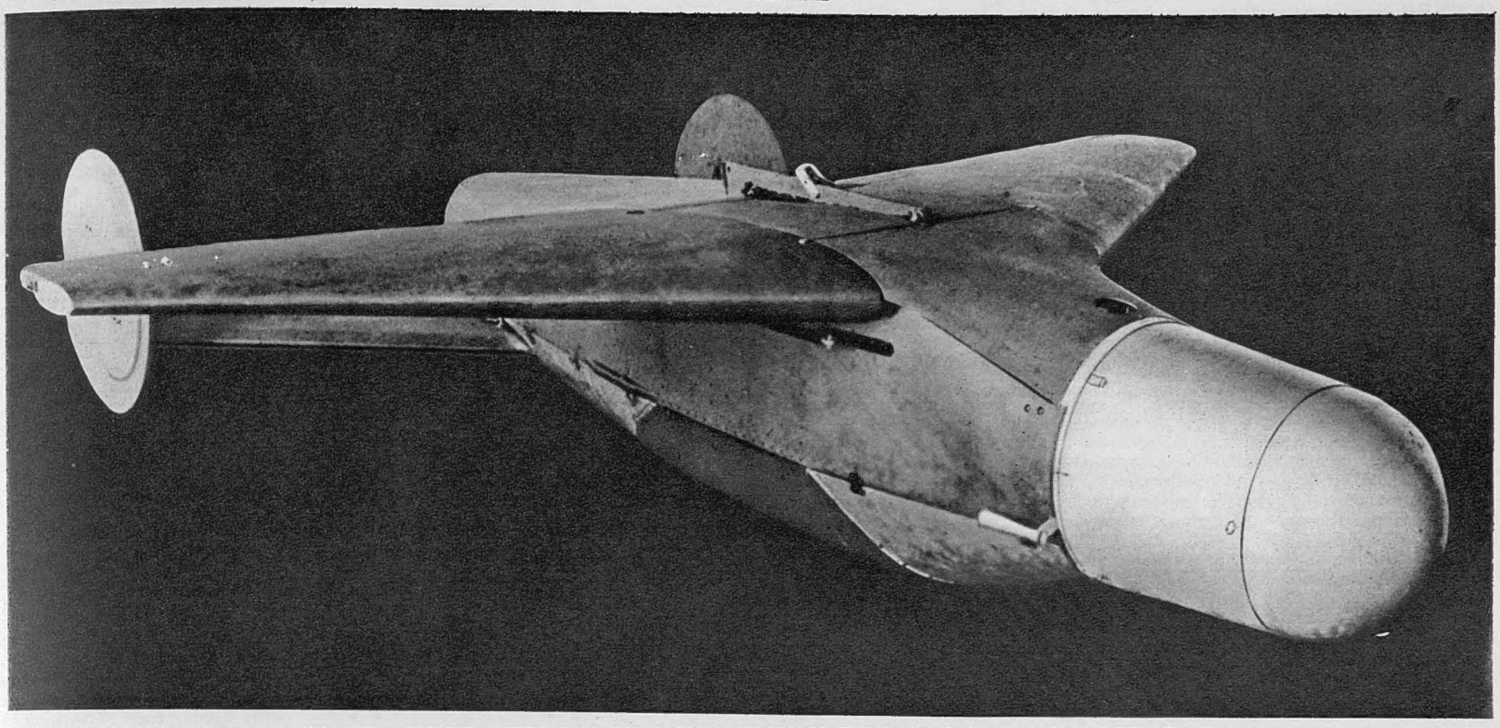


EN ROUTE FROM PESHAWAR TO FORT RAZMAK: Mr. Nehru seen in his plane in earnest conversation with Khan Abdul Gaffsar Khan, the so-called frontier Gandhi. On arrival at Razmak they were greeted with hostile rifle fire from the surrounding hills

THE JIRGA IN SESSION: Khan Abdul Gaffsar Khan, "the frontier Gandhi," Mr. Nehru and Dr. Khan Sahib, the Premier of the North-West Frontier Province (all with backs to camera), attending the assembly of tribal headmen at Fort Razmak. Mr. Nehru spoke with the representatives of over 100,000 Wazirs and Daurs, and attempted to persuade them of the good intentions of India's new Government despite its original non-Muslim aspect



HE SHAKES HANDS WITH ONE OF THE MALIKS: Mr. Nehru greeting a headman at the Razmak meeting. Walking behind India's Chief Minister is Dr. Khan Sahib, the Premier of the North-West Frontier Province, who accompanied Mr. Nehru throughout his journey



A WEAPON THAT WROUGHT HAVOC AMID JAPANESE SHIPPING IN THE CLOSING STAGES OF THE WAR: A close-up view of "The Bat," the first fully-automatic guided missile used in combat and now a fully-fledged Service weapon of the United States Navy. "The Bat," approximately 12 ft. in length with a wing-span of 10 ft., is directed towards the target by the mother plane from which it is released. After release, however, it can follow the target through the most elaborate manœuvres by means of the radar installation in the nose

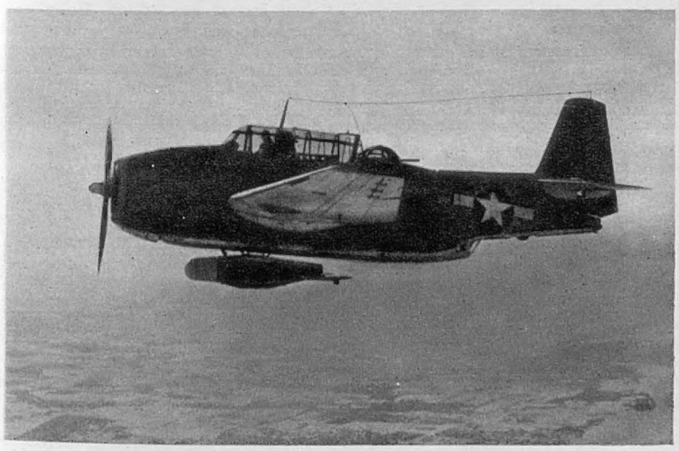
More About "THE BAT"

The Radar-Guided Glider Bomb

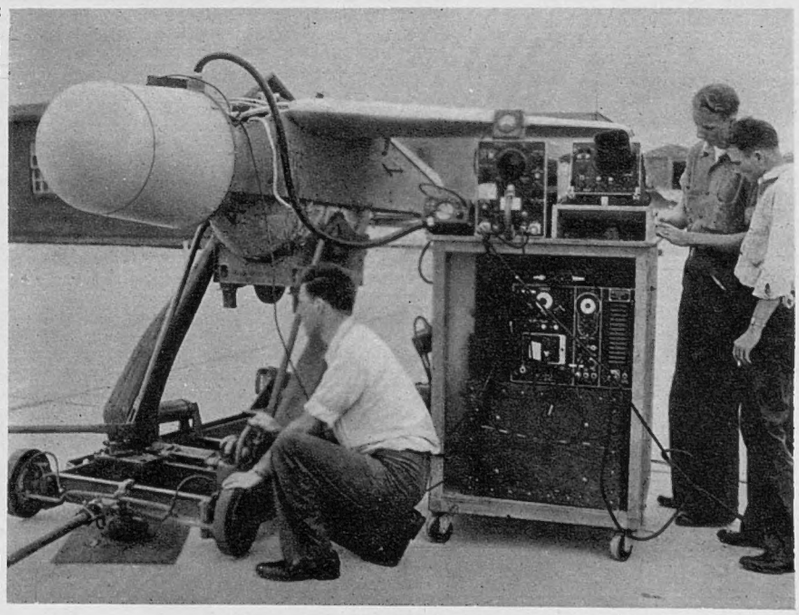
In last week's issue of THE SPHERE preliminary details were given of "The Bat," the remarkable radar-guided bomb which was used by the United States Navy in the closing stages of the war against Japan and which did immense damage to Japanese shipping in the Pacific. "The Bat" contains in its bulbous nose a miniature radar set, and behind it, in the main body of the missile, is packed 1,000 lbs. of high-explosive. The missile is so named because of its similarity to the live bat, which emits a short pulse of sound and directs itself by the echoes. With its radar equipment, the "mechanical bat" operates in very much the same manner. Before release from the parent aircraft "The Bat" is directed towards the target, but any subsequent changes in the target's course are echoed by "The Bat's" radar installation, and missile and target will eventually come together. As noted in last week's issue of THE SPHERE, however, it is probable that "The Bat" would find its match in the proximity fuses of the modern anti-aircraft shell, and when diving towards the target it would be fortunate to evade a well-directed barrage.

"THE BAT" IS RELEASED FROM ITS PARENT AIRCRAFT: The fully-automatic guided missile leaving the parent plane, a Privateer of the U.S. Navy, en route to the target. The Privateer imparts the original direction, but "The Bat" will take care of any change in course

Below—**BEFORE BOMBING-UP: Checking the radar installation in the nose of "The Bat" before attaching the missile to its parent plane. Within the nose of the missile is housed radar transmitting and receiving equipment which in the early stages of the war occupied many square feet**



"THE BAT" IN PROFILE: This picture shows how the missile is carried beneath the fuselage of the parent plane until the moment for release. The weapon is used largely by planes operating from carriers



FRANCE FACES A NEW CROP OF SCANDALS

Eight Major Examples of Racketeering are Brought to Light on Election Eve

By FERDINAND TUOHY

THERE is a popular theory in France that a connection exists between the exposure of an unexampled crop of post-war scandals and the crucial General Election on Sunday week which will launch the Fourth Republic upon a sea unknown.

These exposures were reserved for this particular juncture so as to discredit party politics (particularly Socialist and Communist) and to sway more French minds towards the thought of an authoritative régime of persons clean and resolute. Wasn't the Stavisky scandal kept for a resembling time of high crisis, and didn't it throw out the Radical-Socialist (Liberal) Government and nearly precipitate a Fascist régime in its stead, following the attempted *coup d'état* of February 6, 1934 ?

The theory is plausible but leaves three things out of account.

The first concerns Yves Farge, forty-seven, pre-war reporter on the *Progrès de Lyon*, who rose to edit it consequent on his fine Maquis record. When I was in Paris early in 1945, Farge was being tipped as the coming man. "The kind of man we want," said the younger France. "Energy, integrity, and belongs to no party." When food came to supplant the Liberation as No. 1 topic of conversation, Farge was insistently mentioned as the right man for Food Minister.

But the broom this man made no bones about intending to use was adjudged far too searching in various influential quarters and, with no party organisation behind him, Farge was beaten at the polls when he stood for the Provisional Assembly. That was just a year ago. Had Farge been allowed to grapple with the scandals then, they would have been grave enough ; that the exposures now attain the monumental is due to the additional year's grace granted the crooks and leeches.

In second case, the theory of a carefully-timed exposure presupposes that Premier Bidault, who appointed Farge Food Minister last August, is the sort of man to allow a draining national sore to grow worse pending the day that it should suit him to intervene from the motive of party politics. In point of fact, I am told that Bidault was impressed by the wide-eyed astonishment of foreigners at this summer's Paris conferencing, at the gaping inequalities they saw all about them, between the Lucullian gorging regardless of cost, and the obvious straining to eat of people in certain walks of life.

Surely revolution, total and bloody, lay ahead of that sort of thing ? And were the Communists deliberately abstaining from intervening, so that the *sales cochons de bourgeois* should provoke a still wider disgust ? Bidault, it is said, was impressed by this foreign reaction, and decided to get things started where Gouin had refrained.

Thirdly, there 's the matter of the French people themselves. They have been well and truly involved in the perpetuation of the national rackets until now. Four of the scandals concern meat, wine, milk and vegetables—and where does the quartet lead if not to the farm, to the peasantry who used to form 51 per cent. of the nation, whatever it forms to-day ?

Mainly, the scandals have gone on unchecked because the politicians have not dared to risk losing the decisive agricultural vote. The countryside has been holding up the towns, and the big fry that Farge is laying by the heels at long last could never have got where they did without the avaricious collaboration of many millions of French people.

There are several explanations of the French Black Market (actually a *Marché Gris*), and it is well worth pausing over, not only as the foundation-piece of the scandals, but in its own right as a freak emanation of the times and the people.

The French Black Market arose as a first aid to the Resistance back in 1942, so that it was invested at birth with a halo which French people found it extremely difficult to forget after the Liberation. This thing which had been so patriotic . . . how could it suddenly become transformed into something foul, by peace ? *Allons-y ! Faut manger tout-de-même !*

Then came the next impetus. There was a food shortage consequent on the looting, the chaos, and the destruction. The cry was for transport, and in its absence the Black Marketeers extended their hold on the towns and cities. The big fry began to operate —some of those now being sieved by Farge whose war-cry of "*La Guillotine !*" promptly procured for himself the death threat that he flourishes in the face of others.

Gradually most French people lost such ration sense as they had. They were still suffering from the moral and emotional shock left behind by the abasement of Occupation, and it was so much easier to let things slide. Recovery in other fields was so good . . . why worry as to just how one ate ? *Système D* was the thing ! Self-help by barter and the exchange of goods and services between private individuals. *Système D* and the *Marché Gris* to which all had open recourse without the faintest sense of doing anything underhand.

Planning to revisit the Riviera, I received from that quarter a complete list of local Black Market prices, so that I could assess my necessary expenditure in advance. Incidentally, the whole of this business attained its maximum on the Riviera, though the gorging and gorgeous spenders have to submit to all manner of rudeness and "lack of co-operation" from the proletarians running the public and other services. A very strange cocktail, the Riviera just now ; a smack from the hand that serves you.

. . . One detested the profiteer and racketeer, but—*que voulez vous ?*—they got you what you wanted, and the money was there in loads to pay for it ! What was the use in waiting for *ces Messieurs de l'Administration* ? As a fact, these gentlemen, the bureaucrats and civil servants, did less than nothing to remedy the growing evil : some of their number became closely involved in its extension. In any case, the relative autonomy of the various responsible Government departments, and the conflicting policies they pursued, precluded all effective intervention. The French shook their heads and that 's about all they did about it.

This story has curious twists, and I could mention two further explanations of the long-drawn-out tolerance : the working-class was not among the worst hit, and some of the shrieking "inequality" on view is sanctioned by the French as a bait to the foreign tourist who used to supply the fourth national industry. "We must have the Black Market and luxury goods," runs the argument, "so as to put Paris and France back on the map in its rightful place as Europe's leading magnet."

As for the working-class, the rough, sawdust-strewn *bistros* maintain their reputation for providing some of the most solid feeding in France, while "class combines," plus relatives on the land, improve fare in the domestic circle. Those who are worst hit are among the least heeded to-day : the clerical body and certain professional and intellectual strata, shop assistants and small pensioned folk. It is worth noting that the French Communist Party is currently making a bid for precisely such folk, having decided that expansion among other layers has reached the limit.

In sum, the long-overdue exposures are the direct result of Farge's methods. The man's attacking attitude appeared strongly in his very first exhortation. "Don't allow your butchers to swindle you !" he told Paris housewives. "From now on you must argue, bargain, and insist on your rights, since the butchers are now supplied as in times of plenty. And if you eat in restaurants, remember there is no longer any need for the proprietors to charge you a black-market price for your beefsteak or cutlet."

That was two months ago, and so little did it avail that the farmers now starve the towns of cattle, because they won't accept reduced prices, while Farge has had to organise a nation-wide descent on restaurants, and not only luxury ones. His minions also raided farms, shops, merchants' businesses, hotels and other concerns suspected of storing rationed food, notably children's, such as milk, sugar, chocolate and sweets.

So far, eight major scandals have been brought to light, affecting textiles, banking, housing, motor-cars, milk, vegetables, meat and wine. Wine and textiles look to be the biggest affairs. The former has hit the Socialists by the enforced exit of one of the Party's leading post-war lights, Pierre Malafosse, from the post of Government wine distributor-in-chief. Farge charges that £250,000,000 has been pocketed by wine racketeers, chiefly by the illicit export abroad of Algerian wine at a fantastic price for such cheaply-produced stuff.

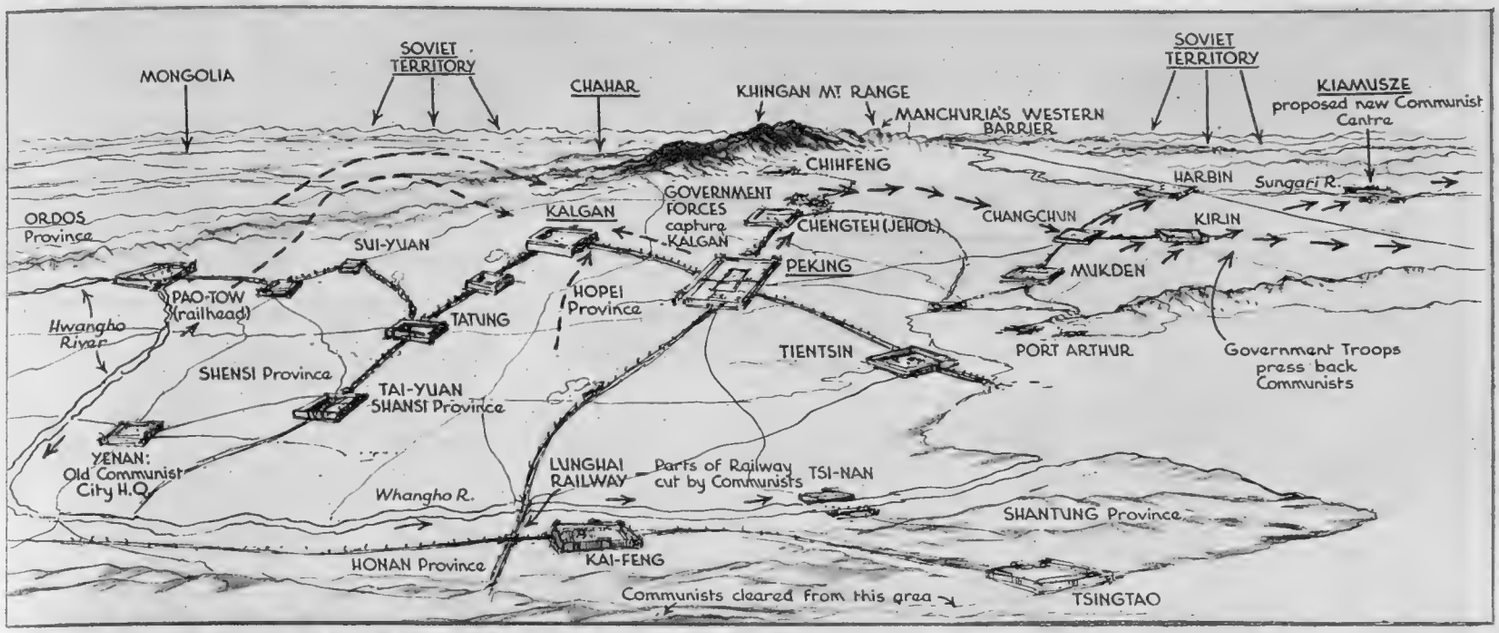
The textile scandal has hit the Communists because their Marcel Paul is implicated as Minister of Industrial Production, one of his nominees having been arrested. Millions of illicit coupons were showered on the directors of famous Parisian stores, and one of them, of the Bon Marché, committed suicide. The banking scandal is connected with dealings in foreign currencies, a personage at the Foreign Office being involved. The housing scandal relates to misuse of the small stock of materials available : the black-market building of bars and pleasure-places goes on while the Minister uses up his month's allocation in a fortnight.

The shortage of building materials is directly related to the shortage of coal, so if we switch Ruhr coal from the French to the Germans, I hope we shall bear in mind that the former suffered greater housing damage than we did, and that the matter of losing more French goodwill will be involved. The French have set a model in coal-extraction from the Saar, and they insisted to me that if their engineers were allowed part-conduct of the Ruhr mines, enough extra coal would be mined to allow of an increase for the Germans *and* a continuance of the French allocation. I don't believe we 've weighed all aspects of this matter sufficiently.

What effect will the scandals have on voting ?

The Communists are making a song-and-dance about the discovery of a French "Werewolf" organisation of Vichyites and pro-Nazis. Of course such an undercurrent exists, and not only in France, as we should know right here. No ; the Communists are implicated by the scandals, as are the Socialists, whereas the M.R.P. and the Gaullists generally are not. The conclusion is that an increased number of French people will decide "We 've got the same old rotten Republic ! ", though they really should give the First (permanent) Assembly a chance.

DAUGHTERS OF THE FRENCH RESISTANCE : These youngsters, seen enjoying themselves at Wren's Warren Camp, Kent, have just arrived in England as guests of an organisation known as "The Young People of Occupied Countries." During the war their fathers and mothers all worked in the French Resistance Movement, most of them in close collaboration with British secret agents. After a month at Wren's Warren the children will be guests in British homes for a further two months before they return to France



THE PROGRESS OF THE CAMPAIGN IN NORTH CHINA: A sketch-map showing the position of Kalgan, the important Communist centre which fell to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's forces in mid-October. As a result, the Communists in the Yenan area and in Shansi have been cut off from their comrades in Northern Jehol, and the Nationalists have been able to claim a major strategic success. Progress, however, is inevitably slow, the Nationalists having to reduce each Communist fortress before they can proceed. As a result of their military setbacks the Communists are said to have been contemplating the setting-up of an autonomous Communist State in what remains to them of Northern China, and they are also said to be preparing a new headquarters at Kiamusze, the position of which is seen in this sketch-map. Kiamusze lies close to the Soviet frontier, and the Communists gain assurance from the fact that by concentrating in this region of Manchuria they will have Soviet territory behind them—*Drawing by Percy Home*

THE NATIONALIST DRIVE IN CHINA

Driving a Wedge Through the Communist Lines at Kalgan; The Return to Conscription

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's drive against the Communists in North China continued to prove successful in October, and by the middle of the month the Communists had their biggest reverse to date when two columns of Nationalist troops swept down on Kalgan and captured it, thus driving a deep wedge into Communist-held territory. Meanwhile, political activity was intensified. The Generalissimo issued yet one more appeal to the Communists to co-operate in a National Government, and General Marshall, of the United States, continued his work as mediator, although his task has been much hampered by Communist distrust of American motives, a distrust arising from the extensive use of American equipment by the Nationalists. Last week the Communists did not entirely reject the final peace offer, and matters seemed more hopeful when General Chou, Communist delegate at the seat of government, agreed to return to Nanking from Shanghai and engage in further talks.

Just before making his peace overtures, Chiang Kai-shek put China back on a war footing, and as a result all male Chinese between the ages of eighteen and forty-five are once again eligible for some form of national service. After so many years of internecine struggle and of war also against the Japanese, such a drastic mandate bodes ill, and it would seem that the Generalissimo personally believes that the present struggle will never be resolved by negotiation.

Be that as it may, the arms factories of Central China are now coming into full production again. The foundries are in operation, and China, which has only known a few days' peace in two decades, would now seem to be on the verge of further horrors unless some last-minute agreement at Nanking paves the way for the National Assembly and the new Constitution which were so nearly inaugurated last spring.

CHINESE INDUSTRY ONCE AGAIN ON A WAR FOOTING: Men engaged in pouring molten metal at a Nationalist war foundry turning out arms for Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Conscription has just been reintroduced in China—*Drawing by W. G. Whitaker*

AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN CHINESE AFFAIRS: This is the railway command post of Colonel Paul Drake, Commanding Officer of the United States 7th Marines, which have been guarding the Tientsin-Chingwangtao railway. The presence of the Marines in the theatre of war has tended to exacerbate the situation between Communists and Nationalists, and the former declare that Chiang Kai-shek is relying for his success on supplies of American equipment

On right—

CIVILIANS HELP ON THE NORTHERN KIANGSU FRONT: A trench built partly by local inhabitants and partly by Nationalist troops during the struggle against the Communists in North China. The inhabitants, war weary in the extreme, are anxious to see a quick return to peace in Kiangsu so that they can set about the task of cultivating their crops without the fear of armies marching and counter-marching across the province. Kiangsu, a well-watered region, has always been famous for the abundance of its rice crops

PANDIT NEHRU'S TOUR

And Other News From Overseas Sources

Pandit Nehru, the chief of India's Interim Government, was twice ambushed, stoned and fired upon during his visit to the North-West Frontier in company with Dr. Khan Sahib, Premier of the Province. It was a wholly hazardous trip throughout, and when Mr. Nehru's car was fired upon as he rounded a hairpin bend in the Khyber Pass, he had to run the gauntlet of 500 armed tribesmen. The general impression of the tour was that most tribesmen are deeply suspicious of the (at present) predominantly Hindu Government, and they would probably prefer to deal with the Muslim League leaders, while, of course, defending their traditional independence from everyone. At some points in the Province Mr. Nehru was well received, but, on the whole, he had a very stormy passage

A HOSTILE RECEPTION FOR PANDIT NEHRU ON THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER: Members of the Muslim League marching through the streets of Peshawar on the occasion of the visit to the city of the chief of India's Interim Government. Many carried banners bearing the words "Nehru Go Back," and "Down with the Unholy Alliance of British and Hindus." The Muslims attempted to break up Mr. Nehru's meetings, and twice he was stoned

BEFORE THEIR NARROW ESCAPE AT THE KHYBER PASS: Pandit Nehru (right) and his host, Dr. Khan Sahib, Premier of North-West Frontier Province, driving together in Peshawar

THE INQUIRY INTO THE CALCUTTA RIOTS: Sir N. P. Engineer (in centre, wearing light suit and dark tie), Advocate-General of India, and other noted legal men seen in conference at Belvedere, Calcutta, when they inaugurated the Commission of Inquiry into the recent riots. While they were in session further rioting was reported in Bengal, particularly in the districts of Noakhali and Tipperah. Refugees reaching Calcutta drew a grim picture of what was happening in these outlying areas, saying that hundreds of villages have been burnt by hooligans

THE GIRL WITH THE SIGNS OF THE STIGMATA: This is Amelia Natividade, a peasant girl of the Portuguese village of Vilar Chao. Thirty thousand pilgrims have recently travelled on foot and car to her home on hearing the news that she had had a vision, and that, on being subsequently cured of her infirmities, the signs of the stigmata appeared on her hands and on her forehead. The stigmata signs are interpreted as a token of Divine favour, and her experiences have caused such a deep impression locally that arrangements are being made to build a chapel in her honour

THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA MAKES A STATEMENT: Sir Patrick Spens, with the Chief Justice of Patna High Court on his right and Mr. B. Somayya, former judge, Madras High Court, on his left, speaking at the opening of the Commission of Inquiry into the Calcutta riots. It is expected that when all the evidence has been sifted it will be found that hooliganism played a dominant part in the outbreak and that the political leaders were powerless

THE BANDIT OF CYPRUS : Midas, the notorious Cypriot brigand, who for five years eluded the police and terrorised the island, being led into the Supreme Court at Nicosia for the hearing of his case. He was sentenced to death after the Court had heard the astonishing story of his adventures

THE EUROPEAN RAILWAY CONFERENCE AT MONTREUX : Mr. R. H. Hacker, of the Southern Railway (left, centre), with fellow-delegates at the Conference which has just been held for the first time since 1939, its main object being to standardise Continental time-tables

BRITISH OLD MASTERS ON EXHIBITION IN CHICAGO : The entrance to the Art Institute at the foot of Adams Street on Michigan Avenue, where sixty-two paintings by Hogarth, Constable and Turner are now on view at a special "Masterpieces of English Painting Exhibition." The opening was attended by Sir Kenneth Clark, former head of the National Gallery, and Lord Inverchapel, British Ambassador to the United States. Among the pictures on view is Constable's celebrated landscape, "The Hay Wain." During the exhibition lectures in British art are taking place

A NEW YORK PROTEST AGAINST YUGOSLAV ACTIONS : New Yorkers parading with placards in front of the Yugoslav Legation on Fifth Avenue. They were not only protesting against the sentencing of Archbishop Stepinac, but also against the treatment meted out to numerous U.S. citizens by Yugoslav courts

TO EASE TOKYO'S HOUSING SHORTAGE : These buses, which were damaged by Allied bombers in the closing stages of the war, have been hauled by enterprising Japanese to vacant sites on the outskirts of the city and they are now busily converting them into homes. Tokyo has a tremendous housing shortage at present, vast working-class areas having been devastated by Allied incendiary attacks

AMONG THE TIN-TOWN SQUATTERS OF ATHENS : Built of corrugated iron and ammunition boxes, this warehouse, seen receiving a coat of whitewash, has been set up on the U.N.R.R.A. dump on the outskirts of the Greek capital, and is one of eighty shanties made from British military or U.N.R.R.A. equipment. Eighty families live in this shanty town, and they eke out a precarious living by picking over the rubbish. Tins, rags, and other discarded containers are collected and baled, and, surprisingly enough, there is a good market for them. The eighty families seem cheerful enough, although in the late summer they raised a storm of protest when an U.N.R.R.A. official attempted to put down D.D.T. to cope with the flies which habitually swarm round the area

THE FRASERBURGH HERRING SEASON PRODUCES A RECORD CATCH: Members of a crew hauling in their nets as the wind rises. An artist's impression of the drifters in action off the Scottish coast where this year they have made a record haul valued at £876,000 as against £699,000 in 1945. The average gross earnings of the Scottish steam drifters were £5,000 in the course of the season. This year the fleet numbered about two hundred boats—*From an oil painting by Montague Dawson*

WHEN THE EAST ANGLIAN HERRING FLEET PUTS TO SEA: A magnificent action picture taken recently as two of the vessels left Yarmouth for the fishing grounds. At the beginning of October the 3,780 Scottish and English herring fishermen refused to work unless their demand for larger rations was met by the Ministry of Food. Having received satisfaction from Mr. Strachey in the form of increased meat and sugar, operations were begun and big catches were reported

RECORD HERRING HARVEST

But Labour Troubles Beset the Fishing Industry

During the autumn months the herring shoals come swiftly south, and by the second week of October many of the herring fishermen who, in September, had been bringing in record catches off Fraserburgh, on the Aberdeenshire coast, were operating with equal success from the East Anglian ports of Lowestoft and Yarmouth. The herring fishing industry, however, has not been without its troubles, and the 3,780 Scottish and English fishermen in the East Anglian ports refused recently to put to sea until their demand for increased rations had been met. As a result of negotiations with the Food Ministry, they are receiving during the eight weeks of the East Anglian season 5s. worth of meat a week against 3s. 4d. worth under the modified scale to which they objected, and an extra 4 oz. of sugar a week, making 21 oz. in all. After hearing the arguments of the fishermen, Mr. Strachey made his decision largely on the ground that during the climax of the herring season the trawler fleet is almost constantly at sea. No sooner was this strike settled and the fishing fleets had returned to port with big catches than the 800 Scottish fisher-girls, who come to Yarmouth for the season, staged a demand for more wages, their action temporarily bringing unloading to a standstill.

Of the record catches made at Fraserburgh earlier in the autumn, 126,150 crans have been sold as fresh, while 49,000 crans were kippered, 8,500 crans were tinned, and 40,000 crans were cured. The prices were lower this year than in 1945, the average being just over 70s. a cran

ACTIVITY ON YARMOUTH QUAY: Landing one of the first catches of the season at the famous East Anglian port where the trawler fleets went into action in the middle of October following the settlement of the Ration Strike. At the end of last week there was more trouble, however, when the Scottish fisher-girls, who de-gut and barrel the fish, made insistent demands for more pay in view of the higher cost of lodgings

THE HERRING GIRLS WERE DEMONSTRATING: When this picture was taken on Yarmouth Quay the vessels had unloaded the catch and were ready to put to sea again, but the baskets of herring lay untouched on the quayside, the Scottish fisher-girls refusing to work until their demands for higher wages were given consideration. They have been demanding two shillings per packed barrel as opposed to the ruling price of 1s. 4d.

WITH THE M.C.C. "DOWN UNDER"

The Tourists Meet West Australia at Perth

A GOOD MAN IN THE FIELD : W. J. Edrich (right) stopping a hot shot from Dr. Robinson, the West Australian captain, in the second match of the M.C.C. tour played at Perth. Edrich is a really first-rate fielder and may well prove the best all-rounder of the tour

DOWN—AND OUT ! Barras, one of the West Australian slip fielders, watched by an excited colleague as he somersaults to take a brilliant catch off Washbrook. Washbrook was dismissed for a modest 17, but did much better against South Australia

TOO LATE FOR A LATE CUT : P. Smith, another of the M.C.C.'s all-rounders, just fails to intercept a ball at third slip. The batsman is D. Watt, who has distinguished himself in two matches against the tourists and may get his Test chance

DR. ROBINSON SCRAMBLES HOME : The West Australian captain rushes towards his crease when narrowly escaping being run out. Evans, who is seen at the wicket, and Gibb, our other wicket-keeper, both played in this match

A RARE SLIP BY HAMMOND : The English captain letting through a swift one from D. Watt, who compiled 85 in this match and 167 in the next. Hammond himself made a brilliant 208, completely redeeming the English batting. He also made a century in the first match of the tour

TYING THEMSELVES IN KNOTS : Gibb (*left*), the Yorkshire amateur, and Watt (*right*), the young Scot who plays for West Australia, caught by the telephoto camera in strange positions at the wicket. Gibb made 20 before being l.b.w. to Puckett, but he was never really happy

After a lapse of over ten years the Londoner can at long last buy his evening paper at 11 o'clock in the morning and read the M.C.C. close-of-play cricket scores from Australia. The fight for the Ashes is on, and Hammond and his men are now almost ready to take on Don Bradman and the rest of Australia. As usual, the tour started in West Australia, and although the M.C.C. bowling was trounced by Watt, a young Scotsman of promise, our own players did satisfactorily enough with the bat to promise well for the coming months. Hammond, with a century in his first innings and a double century in his second innings, showed that he was the master in this company, while Compton, perhaps the most dashing of all our batsmen, was also quickly into his stride. At the moment the M.C.C. bowling is the greatest cause for concern, and much will depend on how the all-rounder Edrich develops on Australian wickets. Our mainstay will probably be the hard-working Bedser

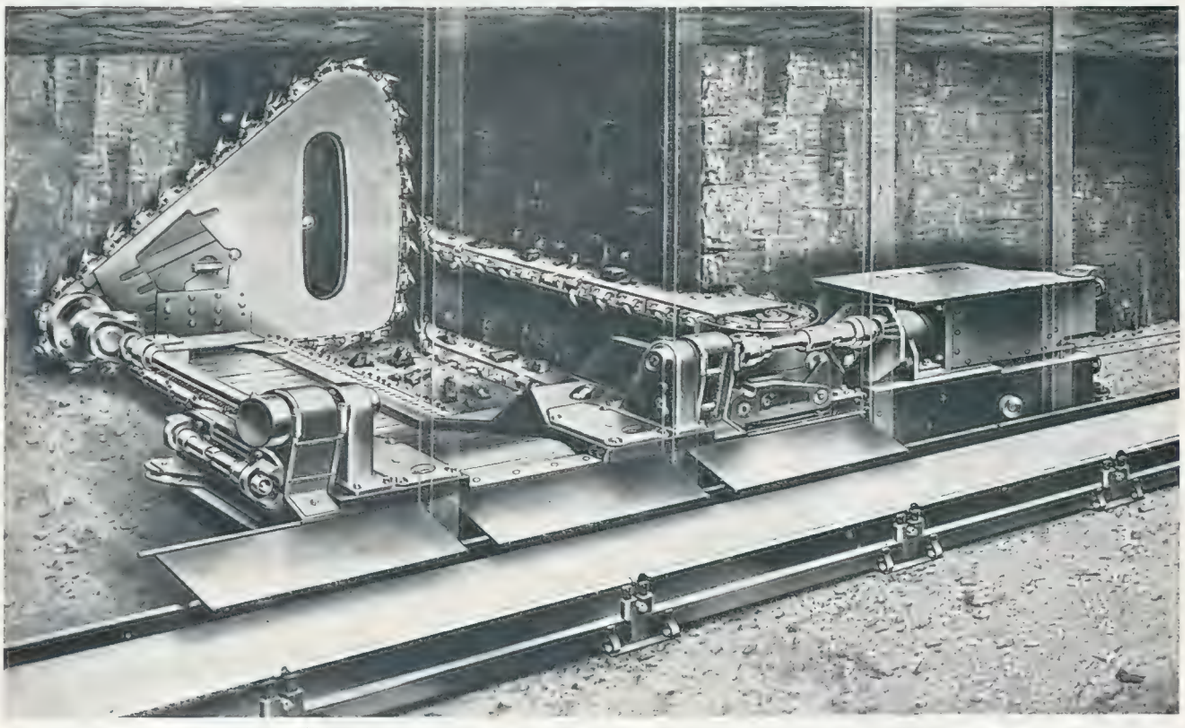
A RICH NEW COAL-SEAM IN SOUTH WALES

And a New Machine to Solve the Man-Power Problem in the Pits

THE SCENE OF A RICH COAL-SEAM DISCOVERY: The Ffaldau Colliery (of the Powell Duffryn Group), in the Garw Valley of Glamorganshire, where, after months of drilling, a new and vitally-important seam has been discovered. Experts say that at a conservative estimate 10,000,000 tons of coal suitable for domestic and industrial purposes will be accessible to the Ffaldau Colliery alone

To-day Britain's most vital industrial need is coal in abundance, and it is good news indeed that a rich coal-seam has been discovered in the Garw Valley of South Wales. At the same time, Mr. Shinwell, who has issued dire warnings regarding what will happen to industry unless we get adequate coal, has announced the success of a new coal-cutting machine, and it is hoped that this may revolutionise mining. The 10,000,000-ton seam in the Garw Valley was discovered by Mr. G. A. Watson of Powell Duffryn, but a geological survey has shown that the seam is of more than local importance, stretching for miles into the Maesteg Valley. The seam was located 100 ft. below the known bottom seam in the area

On right—
The phenomenal coal-cutting machine to which Mr. Shinwell referred recently in the House of Commons, declaring that he lay awake all night thinking of its wonders, was invented sixteen years ago by Mr. Matthew Moore a Glasgow-born consulting engineer, and now, after combating half a generation of prejudice, he has persuaded the coal industry to adopt it. The machine, known as the A. B. Meco-Moore, can take out 3,000 tons of coal per shift with a team of fourteen men operating it. Without it, at least thirty-six men would be required to do the same work. The miners working the Meco-Moore can make up to £3 a shift, and, what is no less important, their work is easier and their safety greater. The machine, which is 16 ft. long, weighs ten tons and costs £5,000, cuts the seam in two layers—at floor-level and half-way up. The roof-pressure breaks up the top layer and the bottom layer is mechanically broken. After the coal is cut it is taken away on the mechanical conveyor for loading into trams. Only four minutes elapse between the machine cutting the coal and pit-props being inserted to support the roof



OPERATED BY A TEAM OF FOURTEEN: A diagrammatic exposition of the action of the new A. B. Meco-Moore coal-cutter and loader, thirty of which are now in use in this country. The coal is cut by two horizontal band-saws and one vertical band-saw. The top layer of coal is broken up by roof-pressure and the loader breaks up the bottom layer. The coal is then passed on to the conveyor seen in the foreground. As the machine moves forward members of the team follow up, inserting pit-props to sustain the roof

On left—
THE KEY TO THE MAN-POWER PROBLEM: Another view of the new coal-cutting machine, showing on the right of the picture the vertical cutter. Below it is the endless belt which carries the broken coal to the conveyor. The Bolsover Colliery in Derbyshire has already produced 1,000,000 tons of coal with this machine, and there has only been one reportable accident from its use

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COVENTRY'S HOUSING EFFORT: An estate on the outskirts of the much-bombed Midland city where work is going forward with fair speed, at least two new permanent houses being roofed-in every day. As can be seen from this picture, great quantities of building material have been brought to the site; and throughout the area the supply of building materials would seem to be more or less keeping pace with requirements. Coventry's ultimate target is 20,000 new houses.

ASPECTS OF THE HOUSING PROBLEM

Coventry and Birmingham Push Ahead with Building Operations; Lord Halifax's Home to become a School

A NEW COVENTRY ESTATE IN THE MAKING: Concrete foundations and footings in position and a supply of bricks ready to hand. How far these houses will get this autumn depends on how long a period remains before severe frosts set in.

COVENTRY'S TEMPORARY HOUSES: A row of prefabricated dwellings completed on the Whoberly Estate to meet the needs of some of the 4,000 families which were made homeless during the blitz in the winter of 1940-41.

In last week's big housing debate in the House of Commons, the Minister of Health, Mr. Aneurin Bevan, announced that practically all the materials for temporary houses have now been made, and that the long-awaited switch-over from temporary house-building to permanent house-building is now taking place, equipment for permanent houses being produced at a rate sufficient for 200,000 houses a year. Meanwhile, in most parts of the country the housing drive has gained momentum, and in some areas an all-out effort is being made to get as many roofs as possible into position before winter sets in and building is virtually brought to a standstill. This is particularly so in Birmingham (a big sufferer in the blitz), where it is hoped to finish 800 permanent houses by Christmas and roofs are going on at the rate of seventy per week. In Birmingham the builders are experimenting with steel houses, and an ingenious system is being operated whereby temporary steel and asbestos houses can later be converted into brick houses without the tenants being disturbed.

FROM MANSION TO COACH-HOUSE: Sixty-roomed Hickleton Hall (*left*), the South Yorkshire home of Lord and Lady Halifax, which is shortly to be converted into a girls' school. Its owners will live in the adjoining coach-house (*right*), which they are planning to convert into comfortable living quarters. While the conversion is taking place, Lord and Lady Halifax will live—on their visits to Hickleton—in a six-roomed cottage formerly used as the village post office.

BIRMINGHAM'S NEW STEEL HOUSES UNDER CONSTRUCTION: A road on the Meadway Estate showing the unusual method of construction. In this type of house roofs are added before interior walls are complete, and in consequence this allows carpenters and plasterers to proceed with their work in wet weather and in time of frost. It has already been found that the system is a great time-saver, and Birmingham may adopt the steel house on an extended scale

On right—ON BIRMINGHAM'S ALUM ROCK ESTATE: A brick-built house and its immediate neighbour, a temporary dwelling made of steel with an asbestos skin. In due time the asbestos skin will be removed and replaced with bricks, the whole task being completed without any inconvenience to the householders. The Alum Rock Estate has a vital need for these temporary houses as it was badly blitzed in the concentrated attacks on Birmingham in 1940 and 1941

On left—Like so many other mansions which have passed from private ownership in recent years, Hickleton Hall, the South Yorkshire home of Lord Halifax, is to become a school, having been purchased by the Sisterhood of the Order of the Holy Paraclete. Lord Halifax will retain the estate in the family, a decision which has given great satisfaction locally. In a recent interview Lord Halifax declared: "We have decided with great reluctance and much regret that it is impossible for us to go on living in the house. I am most anxious to retain my connections with the district, and propose to occupy a cottage in the village until I can convert the stables into a residence. At least I can be certain that the Hall will not go to rack and ruin like so many other magnificent buildings in the district"

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY ARRIVES AT SANDWICH, KENT: This alabaster carving, so typical of English religious work in mediæval days, is being displayed in a special exhibition in Room 8 at the Victoria and Albert Museum of works in alabaster presented to the museum by Dr. W. L. Hildburgh

A CRUCIFIX GROWS FROM THE STEM OF THE SYMBOLIC LILY: A particularly unusual example of alabaster work in the exhibition of alabaster carvings at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Such works were originally painted and gilded

WHEN EUROPE CLAMOURED for BRITISH ALABASTER

An Exhibition that Reminds Us of the Earliest Days of the British Export Trade

Not many yards from the "Britain Can Make It" Exhibition, an exhibition of all that Britain is now making for export, is an exhibition that reminds us of the very earliest days of Britain's export trade, when the Continent clamoured to buy alabaster figures of British workmanship. The making of these devotional figures in alabaster or gypsum first began in this country in the twelfth century, a prosperous industry developing in London, Nottingham and York, but it was not until the year 1340 that they came into big demand abroad. From then until the Reformation the trade was on an extensive scale. As a result, numerous examples of English alabaster work are to be seen on the Continent to-day, but in England they are comparatively rare, owing to the vast destruction wrought at the Reformation.

Dr. W. L. Hildburgh, F.S.A., a distinguished collector of these alabasters, recently presented 200 examples of them to the Victoria and Albert Museum, and a selected group of them is now on exhibition in Room 8.

Most of the alabasters in the present exhibition belonged originally to some altarpiece, though some were intended to stand alone. All were originally painted and gilded; and most were enclosed in a decorated wooden housing. The subjects usually illustrated were the Passion, the Life of the Virgin, Saints and Martyrs.

The examples shown at the Victoria and Albert have been divided into two main date groups. Those representing the early period (between about 1340 and 1420) show the industry at its best.

SIGNS OF THE LAST JUDGEMENT: The people witness the gathering of the birds, and the trees and herbs bearing the dew of blood. Another mediæval alabaster remarkable for its accomplished workmanship. The alabasters of the earliest period (1340-1420) are rated as the most mature in their treatment

THE CROWNING OF CHRIST WITH THORNS: A mediæval alabaster of great intricacy of detail. While the thorns are being placed on Jesus' brow, the men around Him are mocking Him and hailing Him as King of the Jews

JOHN THE BAPTIST BEFORE HEROD : The King, sword in hand, sits cross-legged on his throne as the Evangelist is brought before him. The woman of the Court is wearing English mediæval costume

CHRIST RISES FROM THE SEPULCHRE : One of the most interesting of the alabaster carvings from the Hildburgh Collection in the Victoria and Albert Museum. As Christ leaves the tomb He is shown, cross in hand, stepping over the figure of a soldier. The panel has a strongly emotional quality and is of more mature workmanship than some of the alabasters in the collection

WANDERINGS OF ST. CHRISTOPHER : In this alabaster the martyr and saint is shown carrying a wayfarer across a river, the water being represented by the wavy lines at his feet. In his right hand is the staff which blossomed into a palm-tree

THE HEAD OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST : This was a favourite subject of the early workers in alabaster, but seldom did they execute a carving so lifelike in its treatment as this. It is one of the gems of the Hildburgh Collection, which consists of about 200 pieces, 80 of which are now on view in Room 8 at the Museum

AN ADDRESS OF WELCOME IN THE CATHEDRAL CLOSE: Dr. Lunt (left, foreground), the new Bishop of Salisbury, hears a speech in Latin delivered by the Bishop's Chorister, who stands a few paces in front of the choir. This scene of ecclesiastical ceremonial took place last week in Salisbury just prior to Dr. Lunt's enthronement

ENTHRONEMENT OF THE NEW BISHOP OF SALISBURY

Scenes of Ecclesiastical Pageantry in the Old Cathedral City

THE NEW BISHOP ENTERS BY THE WEST DOOR: After the address of welcome in the Cathedral Close, he is escorted into the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, there to be the central figure in the "Induction, Enthronement and Installation." Dr. Lunt had been Bishop of Ripon since 1935

On left—

PASSING IN SOLEMN PROCESSION TO THE CATHEDRAL CLOSE: Dr. Charles Lester Lunt, the new Bishop of Salisbury, having been clad in his episcopal robes at the Mitre House, is escorted through the streets of the city

Below—

THE CHOIR FOLLOWS THE CROSS: The Verger leading the procession to the Cathedral Close before the Bishop's Chorister delivered an address of welcome to the Bishop

Dr. Charles Lester Lunt, former Bishop of Ripon, was installed last week at the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Salisbury, as Salisbury's ninety-seventh Bishop. The procession of the clergy through the streets of the city; the gathering on Chorister's Green, where the Bishop's Chorister, a diminutive white-robed figure, delivered a Latin speech of welcome; the ceremonial entry at the West door; and the subsequent "Induction, Enthronement and Installation," were all carried out in accordance with the ancient ceremonial of the Church. On entering the Cathedral Dr. Lunt made the usual declaration of allegiance to the Church of Salisbury, and the enthronement was then conducted by the Archdeacon of Canterbury, who produced the Mandate. On page 154 of this issue is a picture of Dr. Lunt and Mrs. Lunt outside the Bishop's Palace, Salisbury

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NEWS FROM PALESTINE

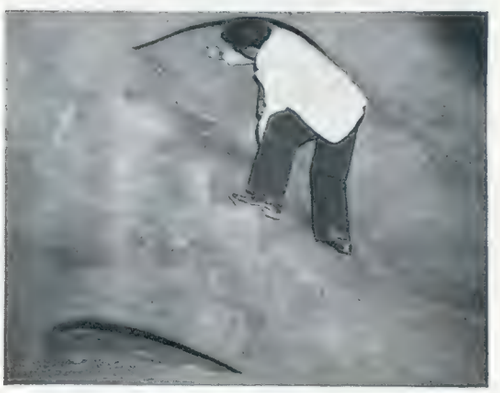
A Byzantine Cistern Found in Jerusalem: Excavating the Lost City of Tirsa

AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY NEAR THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE: This underground cistern, believed to date back to the fourth century, to a period long preceding the Crusades, has just been revealed beneath the courtyard of the Church of the Tomb of the Blessed Virgin, Jerusalem. Archæologists believe that when the silt of 800 years is cleared away, relics of the Byzantine period may be brought to light

A MASSIVE STONE COLUMN IN THE NEWLY-DISCOVERED CISTERN: The reservoir was sealed up 800 years ago

WHERE THE DISCOVERY WAS MADE: On the left is the entrance to the Church of the Tomb of the Blessed Virgin, and on the right is the hole, discovered by an Arab, leading to the Byzantine cistern

The underground chapels and shrines at the Church of the Tomb of the Blessed Virgin near the Garden of Gethsemane have for long been a show place for visitors to Jerusalem, and the discovery in the same area of an ancient Byzantine cistern consequently occasions no great surprise, though arousing much interest. The cistern, with caked mud reaching very nearly to the top of its massive columns, is to be cleared by order of the Greek Orthodox and Armenian Patriarchate, and it is hoped that the clearance will reveal Byzantine relics of importance. It would seem that the cistern has been sealed up since 1187 A.D., when Saladin descended on Jerusalem and drove out the Crusaders. It was accidentally re-discovered by an Arab workman, who dislodged the stone leading to the cistern's stairway.



STEPS LEADING FROM THE CISTERN: They are almost obliterated by silt reaching nearly to the roof

THE RE-DISCOVERER OF TIRSA: Father R. P. Roland du Vaux, of the Dominican Fathers, and Director of the French Biblical School of Archæology in Palestine, who has been conducting the excavations at Tel Ferra, ten miles north-east of Nablus, and who believes that the site may represent the ancient capital of the Israelite Kingdom. Father du Vaux chose the site for excavation partly because it lay on the ancient trade route between Cairo and Damascus, and partly because he had found in the area tiny slivers of pottery which he estimated to be several thousands of years old. His estimate has proved correct, and in the next few months it is hoped that more important finds may be made. Father du Vaux, who is financed by the French Archæological Commission, began work on the site early in June

POTTERY FROM THE LOST CITY OF TIRSA: These finds, pieced together with the most elaborate care, were unearthed at Tel Ferra, near Nablus, by Father du Vaux and his fellow-workers. Some of this ware is believed to date from 2000 B.C., and it was found among the ruins of the twenty houses so far revealed. Other, and even more important, discoveries are the bones of a child of two, estimated to be at least 5,000 years old, and a tomb containing the bones of a young man with a bronze belt deposited by his side

WHEN A GIANT AIR-LINER TAKES OFF: The machine has left the runway, but the rate of climb at this juncture is slow, and at least another 600 yards are required to reach a height of over 50 ft. In the planning of all aerodromes the height of obstructions beyond the runway has to be taken into the closest consideration—*Drawing by Roland Davies*

BUILDING A HOME FOR THE BRABAZON I—THE WORLD'S LARGEST LAND-PLANE: An overhead view of site clearance in progress at Filton Aerodrome, near Bristol, as a preliminary to the construction of a giant hangar for the prototype machine. The hangar will cost £1,500,000, and until it is completed the wing extensions cannot be fitted to the Brabazon. The fuselage is 177 ft. long, and manœuvring the Brabazon from its present construction shed will involve considerable difficulty. A special concrete track will be constructed to the taking-off point

GETTING A HEAVY LINER INTO THE AIR

The Terrific Length of Modern Runways

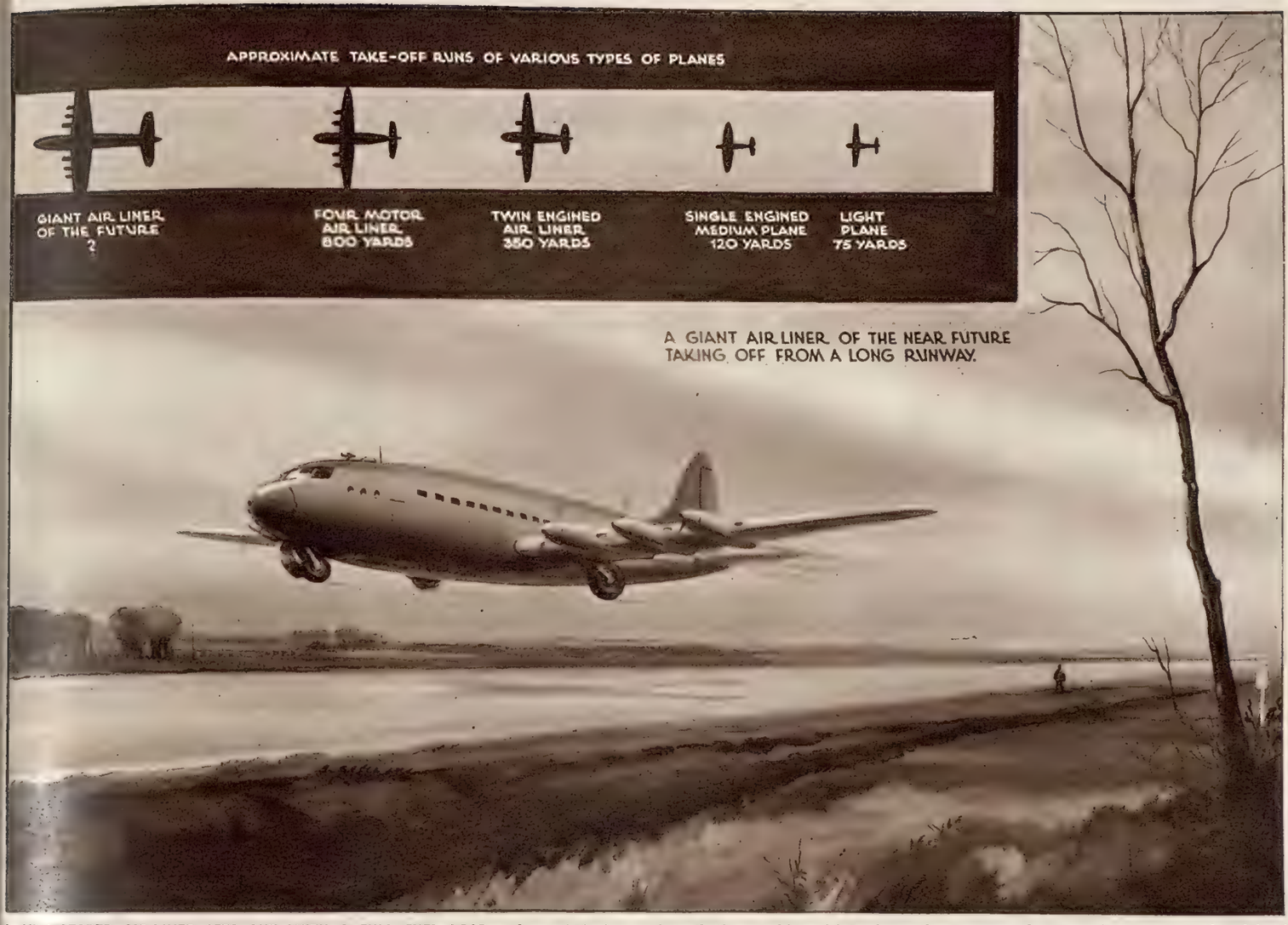
Special Sphere Diagram-drawings

The problem of lifting heavy air-liners into the air is one that is demanding increasing attention in civil aviation circles, and of recent weeks much publicity has been given to the Brabazon I, or Bristol 167, which is now well on the way towards completion at Filton Aerodrome, near Bristol. The construction of the Brabazon, with its 177 ft. fuselage and its wing span of 230 ft., indeed presents problems of shipbuilding proportions, and before the wing extensions can be added the £1,500,000 hangar will have to be completed.

In the diagrammatic drawings on these pages an idea is given of the length of runway necessary to lift various types of aircraft safely off the ground. In this connection it has to be remembered that once the initial lift has been made the aircraft does not soar skywards immediately, and in the case of the very heavy machines they may need a further 600 yards before attaining a height of even 50 ft.

In preparing the Brabazon runway at Filton, therefore, it has been necessary to cut down all trees in the vicinity of the runway, particularly beyond its western limit, thus minimising the danger of collision in those first moments of taking off. At the same time, part of the village of Charlton, which stood in the path of the extension, has had to be demolished.

The increasing size of air-liners is also making it necessary to strengthen existing runways.



A SIX-MOTORED AIR-LINER SETS OUT WITH A FULL FUEL LOAD: An artist's impression of the machine rising above the runway after covering over a mile of level concrete track. The diagram at the top of the drawing illustrates the length of take-off required by planes of varying size, and there is no doubt that this problem of runway lengths is going to present increasing difficulties in this country. At Filton, where the Brabazon I, the world's largest land-plane, is now under construction, part of a village has had to be demolished to make way for the necessary runway extension—*Drawing by Roland Davies*

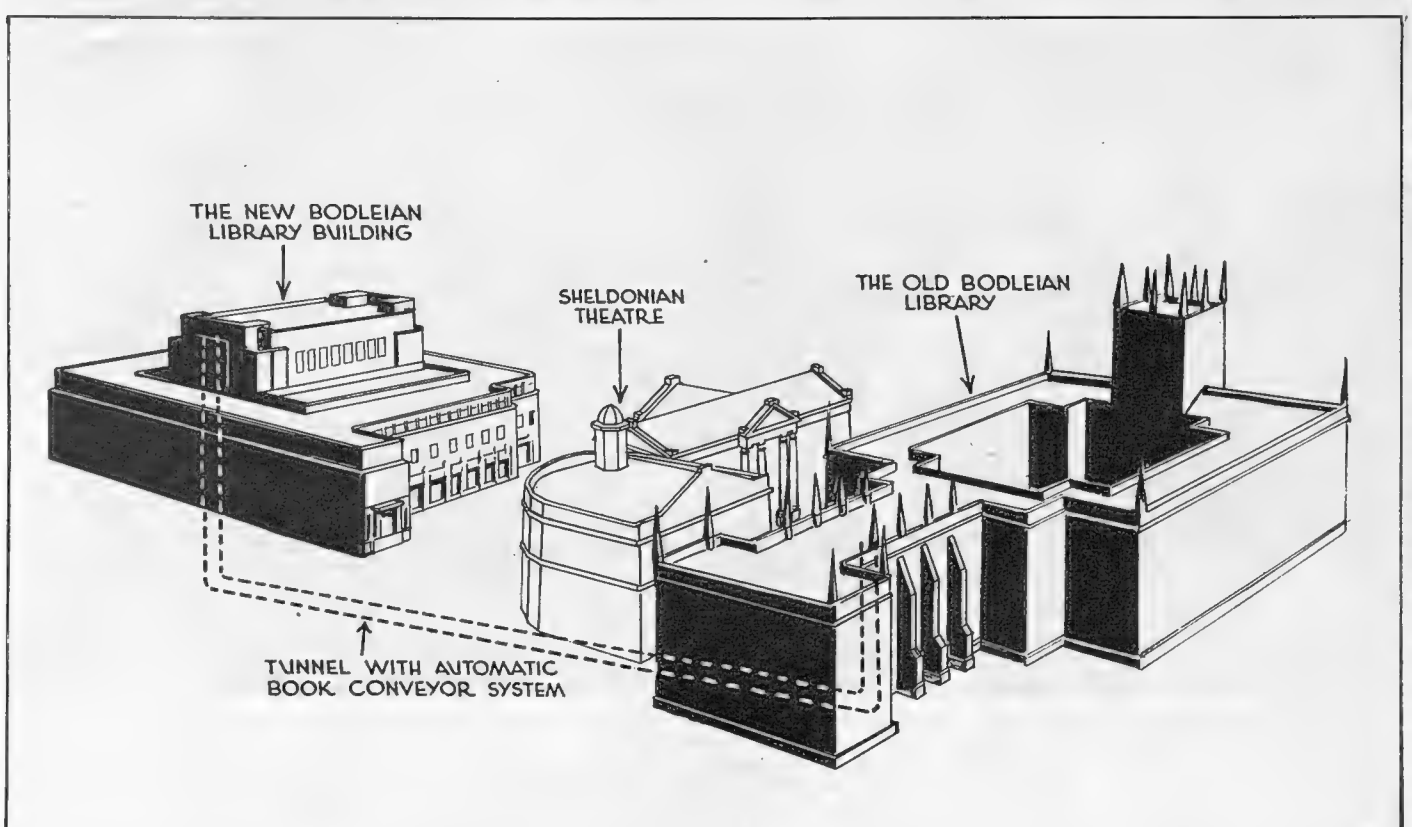
IN THE PATH OF PROGRESS—AN AERIAL VIEW OF THE CLEARED SITE IN THE LITTLE VILLAGE OF CHARLTON, WHICH HAS BEEN DEMOLISHED IN ORDER TO MAKE WAY FOR THE FILTON RUNWAY EXTENSION: Without this western extension it will be impossible for the Brabazon I to take off when the machine becomes ready for its trials next year. Even when the runway is completed, it is expected that there will be a good deal of undulation in the surface, and there will probably be an initial sharp rise of ground at about the point where the Brabazon is expected to reach taking-off speed. The existing runway will also need strengthening, and large numbers of trees are having to be felled in the immediate vicinity of the point of take-off. In addition to the runway an enormous amount of work will be necessary to provide a track along which the Brabazon will be towed from the £1,500,000 assembly hangar to its take-off position

THE EXTENSION TO OXFORD'S BODLEIAN LIBRARY WHICH THE KING OPENED LAST WEEK: An artist's impression of the new building, which has been built to the design of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, and which will house a further 10,000,000 volumes to meet the library's constantly expanding needs. The foundation-stone was laid by Queen Mary in 1937, and much of the cost has been contributed by the Rockefeller Institute. A feature of the new library is the automatic book-conveyor system—*Drawing by W. C. Ives*

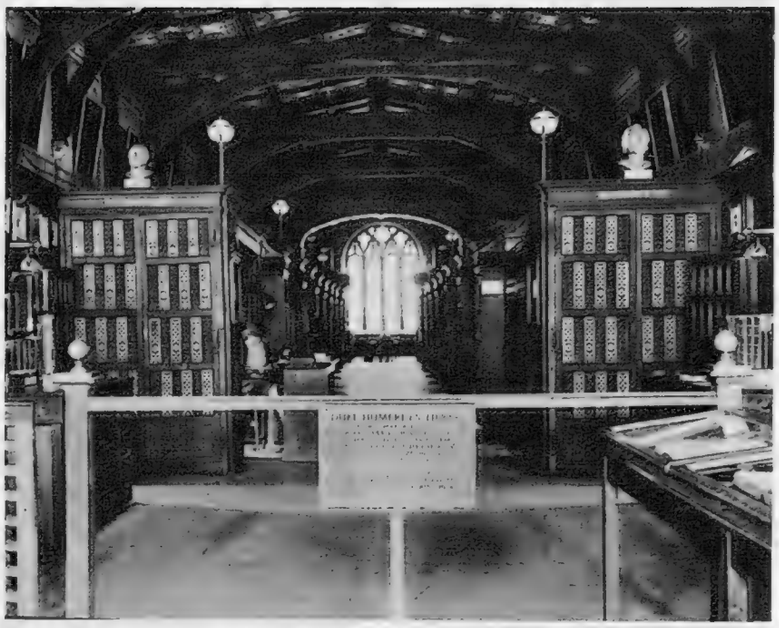
THE NEW BODLEIAN IS MECHANISED

How the Books are Conveyed Mechanically from Department to Department

The Bodleian Library, like the British Museum and the Library of the University of Wales, receives a copy of every work published in Great Britain and, such has been the spate of publishing in the present century, it was little wonder that by 1925 Oxford's celebrated library was showing signs of outgrowing itself. In that year it became known that all available storage space at the Bodleian would probably be exhausted in ten years, and immediate plans were made for building an extension, Sir Giles Scott being charged with the task. The result of Sir Giles's labours was seen by many visitors to Oxford last week when the King opened the £1,000,000 Bodleian extension. The feature of this extension is the book-conveyor system which links the old library with the new by way of a tunnel beneath the road. Books can be sent from one department to another, and are automatically discharged at the appropriate floor. On opening the extension the King was presented with a copy of Macray's *Annals of the Bodleian Library*

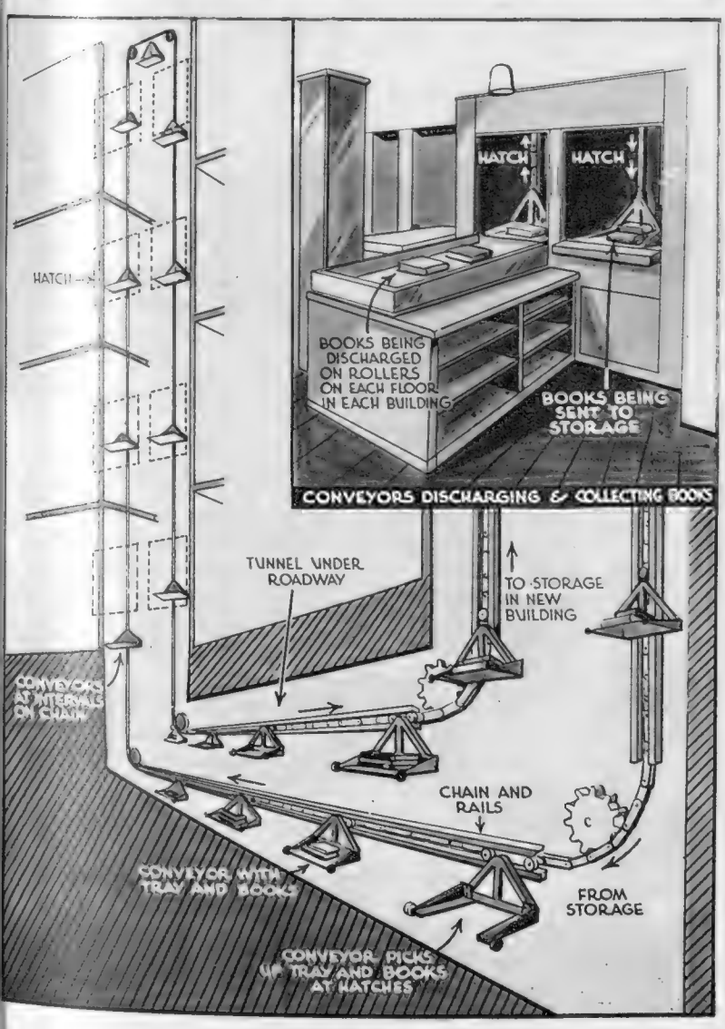


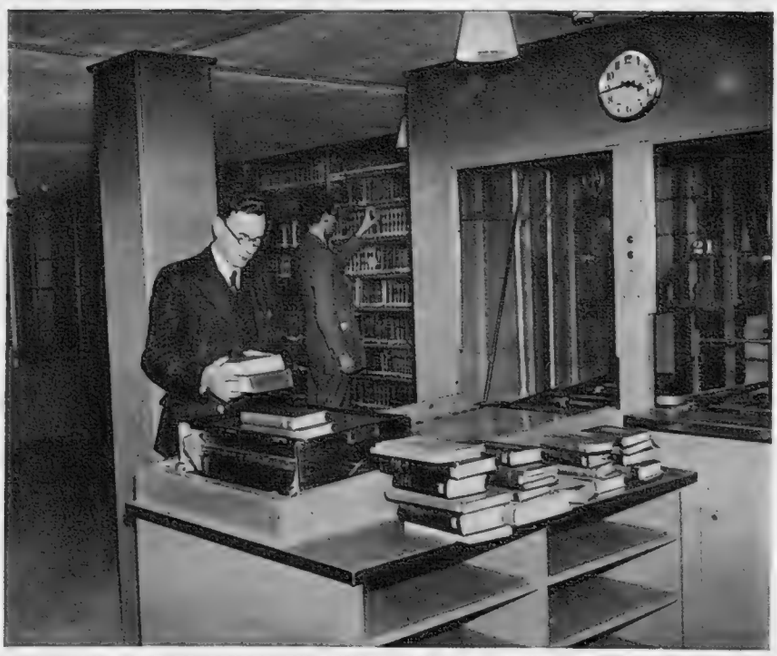
On left—**LINKING THE NEW AND OLD LIBRARIES: A diagrammatic sketch showing the tunnel beneath the roadway by which books are despatched on a conveyor system from the Bodleian Library to its £1,000,000 extension building. By pressing the appropriate button a tray of books will travel on the conveyor and will be shot out on to the receiving shelf on the appropriate floor.** *On right* **is a diagrammatic sketch showing how this conveyor system operates. Without it it would be quite impossible for the library to deal with the constant flow of new publications and to meet the demands of the reading public wishing to see the volumes of their choice**



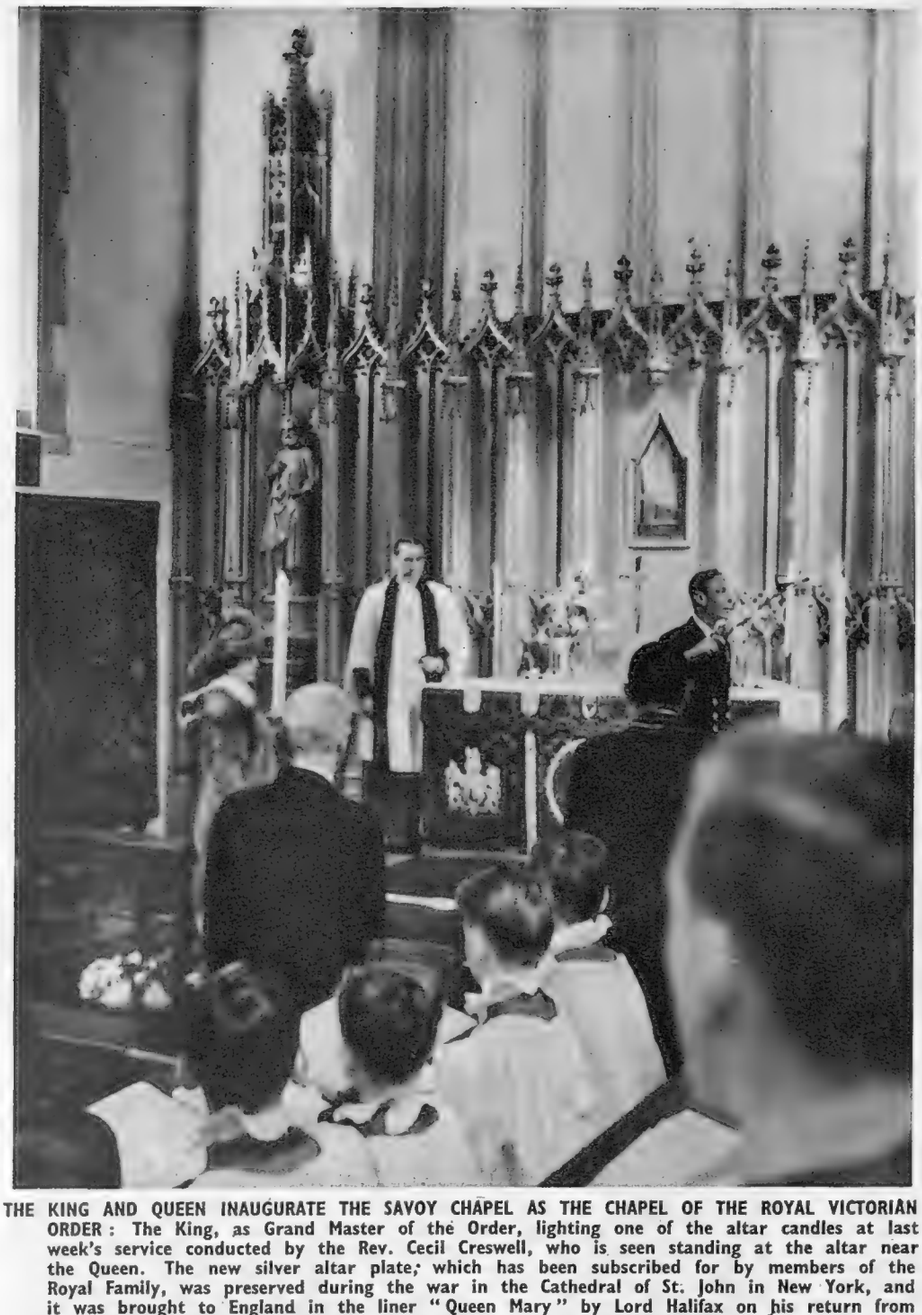
DUKE HUMPHREY'S LIBRARY: The oldest part of the Bodleian Library. It was founded in 1444 by Humphrey Duke of Gloucester and finished about 1488. To-day it is linked with the new library by the mechanical conveyor which passes beneath the roadway from one building to the other, and travels to all floors. Messages between the two buildings are sent by pneumatic tube

THE LAW AND ENGLISH READING-ROOM OF THE BODLEIAN: Students at work in the more modern part of the old library. To-day the Bodleian has over thirty miles of shelves and the new extension really acts as a book store. The principal reading-rooms will be situated as heretofore, and the tunnel under the roadway, with its modern conveyor system, will supply the essential link

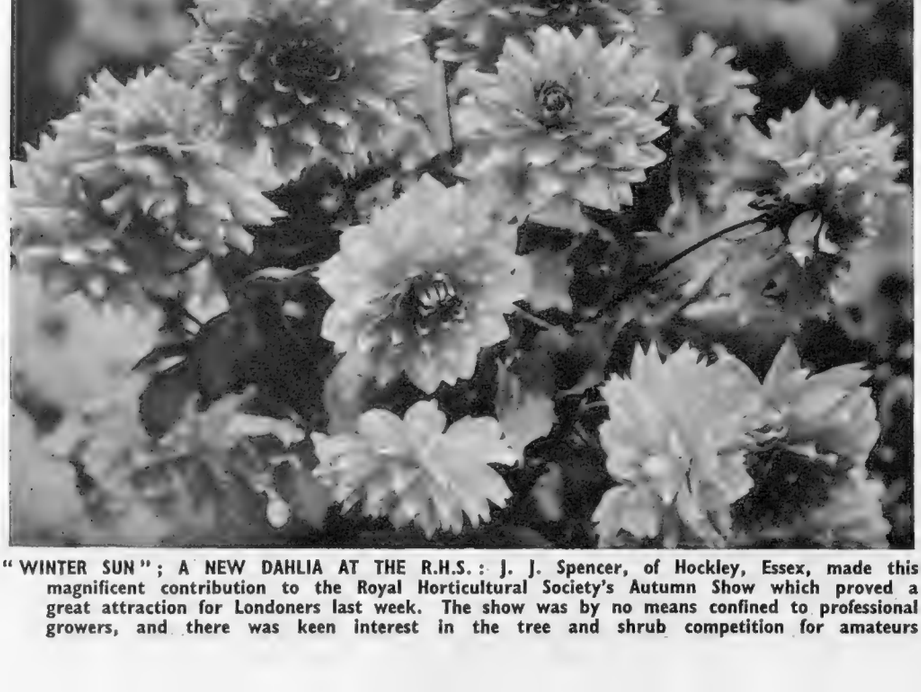




FROM BOOK STORE TO READER BY REMOTE CONTROL: A librarian placing books on the conveyor tray on the eighth floor of the new Bodleian. He has received a request for the books by pneumatic tube, and when he has obtained them he places them on the tray, presses a button, and the tray is sent by conveyor beneath the roadway to the selected department in the Old Bodleian



THE KING AND QUEEN INAUGURATE THE SAVOY CHAPEL AS THE CHAPEL OF THE ROYAL VICTORIAN ORDER: The King, as Grand Master of the Order, lighting one of the altar candles at last week's service conducted by the Rev. Cecil Creswell, who is seen standing at the altar near the Queen. The new silver altar plate, which has been subscribed for by members of the Royal Family, was preserved during the war in the Cathedral of St. John in New York, and it was brought to England in the liner "Queen Mary" by Lord Halifax on his return from Washington. During the service, the Chapel was filled by the many distinguished members of the Order, and in the procession up the aisle the altar pieces were carried by the four Knights Grand Cross—the Earl of Athlone, the Earl of Cromer, Lord Wigram and Viscount Davidson



"WINTER SUN"; A NEW DAHLIA AT THE R.H.S.: J. J. Spencer, of Hockley, Essex, made this magnificent contribution to the Royal Horticultural Society's Autumn Show which proved a great attraction for Londoners last week. The show was by no means confined to professional growers, and there was keen interest in the tree and shrub competition for amateurs

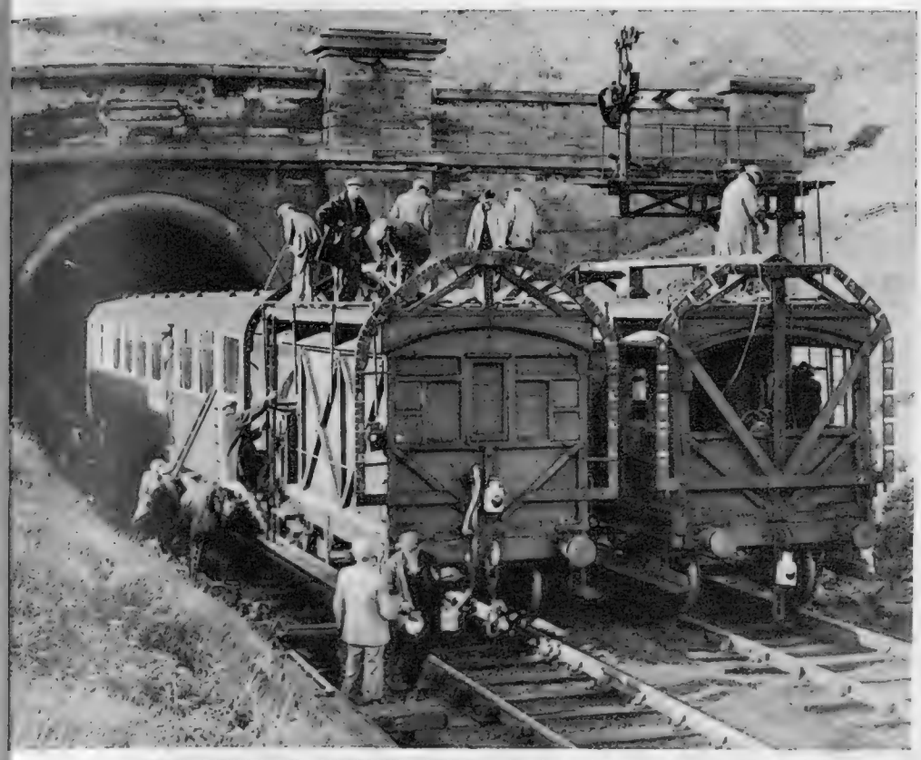
Home News in Pictures

FROM LONDON AND THE PROVINCES

THE NEW BISHOP OF SALISBURY: The Right Rev. Geoffrey Charles Lester Lunt and Mrs. Lunt seen outside the Bishop's Palace, Salisbury, before last week's enthronement. Dr. Lunt, who has been Bishop of Ripon since 1935, was educated at Sherborne and Exeter College, Oxford, and he has had a varied experience at home and abroad. As Chaplain to the Forces in the First World War, he was awarded the M.C. in 1917. In 1926 he became Archdeacon of Egypt (See page 148)

BEAUTY AT THE HORTICULTURAL HALL: "Melrose," a hybrid orchid displayed by Sanders of St. Albans in the orchid section of the Royal Horticultural Society's Show

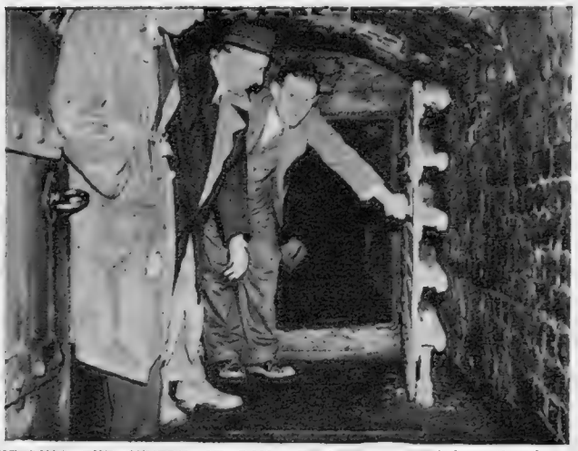
THE LARGEST AND THE SMALLEST ROSES IN THE WORLD: This exhibit at the Autumn Flower Show of the Royal Horticultural Society was made by Wheatcroft's, of Nottingham. Both the blooms were grown out of doors. The large rose, called "Arthur J. Taylor," measures nine inches across, and in colour is a delicate mixture of carmine and pink. It recently won an Award of Merit. The miniature rose, named "Josephine Wheatcroft," is only half an inch in depth, but it is perfectly shaped



KEEPING THE SEVERN TUNNEL IN WORKING ORDER: Roof-tapping gangs mounting their special Diesel wagons before travelling through the famous tunnel on one of their regular tours of inspection, which take place on ten or twelve selected days every year. The tunnel, which shortens considerably the railway journey between London and South Wales, avoiding the long detour through Gloucester, where the river narrows, was built in 1886, and it is still the longest railway tunnel in this country. On every day of the year about 20,000,000 gallons of water are handled by the Severn Tunnel pumps, most of it coming from the "Great Spring" which flooded the tunnel during construction and took a year to control. This spring is now diverted into a deep sump, and from the sump the water is pumped 140 ft. to the surface

THE LAST WORD IN "FLAT IRONS": The 1,780-ton coasting collier "Mitcham," the Wandsworth Gas Company's new vessel, seen on the Thames at Wandsworth after negotiating the fifteen miles of river from the estuary. When she turns round at Wandsworth there is little room for other traffic to pass. The "Mitcham" has a squat funnel to save her lowering it at each bridge, and her collapsible masts are stepped down into the holds. The Wandsworth Gas Company are adding several new ships to their fleet, and the "Mitcham" bears a close resemblance to the "Chessington," details of which were given in "The Sphere" of June 29. She is equipped with sloping wing ballast-tanks, which ensure that the cargo automatically accommodates itself to within the range of the mechanical grabs during the discharging operations

POLISHING UP THE LORD MAYOR'S COACH: The gilded equipage, the centre of attraction at many a Lord Mayor's Show in pre-war days, being got ready for this year's inauguration of Sir Bracewell Smith on November 9. The procession will also return to its pre-war glory. Contingents from the Services will be there, and there will also be an industrial tableau



KEEPING THE SEVERN AT BAY: Engineers examining the iron door which leads to a culvert off the main part of the Severn Tunnel and in the region of the "Great Spring." This picture was taken during the last official inspection of the tunnel, every part of which is examined regularly

A ROOF-TAPPING GANG IN ACTION: Testing the brickwork of the Severn Tunnel from the roof of their Diesel-propelled car. It is a grimy job, the bricks being soot-laden

OBEDIENCE TESTS AT IMBER COURT: A London policeman training dogs for police work. Police dogs will now have everyday duties with the Force and they are undergoing a course of two months' advanced training, learning to ignore game and follow human scent. Each policeman will look after his own dog and they will always work together. The dogs, whose average age is about eighteen months, are bought mostly from Yorkshire farms. Their daily diet consists of 1½ lbs. of raw horseflesh and some biscuits. To begin with, they will operate in South-Western London and later will be incorporated in the police routine of the whole London area. The dogs will not attack unless provoked, and they are really meant to serve as an extra pair of eyes

REACTIONS TO THE THIRD PROGRAMME

The B.B.C.'s Latest Experiment for the Serious-minded Listener Has Had a Friendly Welcome

By CHARLES GRAVES

THE Third Programme has now been in existence for a month. On the whole, it has been given a friendly welcome by the Press, although there have been some very natural complaints about the actual reception. Officially the programme can be heard on wave-lengths 203 and 514. Unfortunately, only one person in two can "get" the programme, and even then a powerful radio set is necessary. The reason for this is that 514 was allotted by the Lucerne international wave-length plan to Tunis and Latvia in the middle '30's. The B.B.C. used 514 during the war, and Latvia being expected to remain a puny State, the B.B.C. went ahead with Government approval.

Unfortunately, after an announcement had been made that the Third Programme was going to use 514, the Russians decided that they were going to broadcast on the same wave-length from a station of such high power that it would cover the whole of Europe. This meant that the B.B.C. could only use a proportion of power available from Droitwich mast.

As for 203, this was intended primarily for listeners round certain big cities, such as Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Cardiff, Brighton, Manchester and London. Personally, however, I am not able to get 203 at all, in spite of my having a big radio-set tee-ed up to the limit within a mile of the B.B.C.

Public reaction to the Third Programme is now being probed, but the B.B.C. quasi-scientific method of conducting their listeners' research does not apparently permit of a quick collection of results. The programme itself consists of 50 per cent. of serious, contemporary and classical music, 30 per cent. of the presented "spoken word"—plays and dramatised features such as John Hersey's account of the atom bomb's effect on Hiroshima—and 20 per cent. straight spoken stuff, such as a dialogue between Wyndham Lewis and Anthony Blunt, the Keeper of the King's Pictures.

The great advantage possessed by George Barnes, the head of the Third Programme, and Etienne Amyot, the planner of the Third Programme, over their opposite numbers in the Home Service and the Light Service, is that they were able to start with an absolutely clean sheet and no commitments from the past. The whole serious world is their oyster. Thus they were given permission by Sir William Haley to let a single feature run five hours, like *Man and Superman*. In January they are going to do a Shaw Festival—five of his plays in a single week. These include: *Mrs. Warren's Profession, The Devil's Disciple, The Doctor's Dilemma, Blanco Posnet* and *The Apple Cart*. They are likely to follow with the *Canterbury Tales*, by Piers Plowman. They have already done *Tristan and Isolde*, which takes four hours.

In future one can expect all of Bach's forty-eight preludes and fugues, as well as all Beethoven's piano sonatas. What is more, they will be done in a reasonably short period of time, say a series of nine or ten concerts within three weeks. But it is not proposed to have any serial readings of novels, because it is taken for granted that the specialised audience is genuinely literate.

Another plan is to do scenes from Aristophanes' *The Frogs*, in both ancient Greek and modern English. Sport has, so far, been excluded because of the difficulty of outside broadcasts at night. This, however, is not necessarily a correct decision. There must be many listeners to the Third Programme who would like a certain amount of time devoted to such sports as royal tennis, racquets, fly-fishing and polo, which appeal to too small an audience for the popular Light or Home Services. Talks on indoor games, like contract bridge, will probably be tried out. As George Barnes says, he and his programme are dedicated to experiment. Thus he is considering the possibility of injecting first-class travel talks into the programme. One can well believe that there must be thousands of people who would like to hear a talk on, for example, "Florence Re-visited."

The chief difference between the Third Programme and the others is that its presentation is leisured. The programme planner does not have to follow *The Rape of Lucrece* with a hot swing band two seconds later. Deliberately, there are intervals of five or six, or even more, blank minutes between one feature and another, without even a ticking clock to tell the listener who has just switched over to the wave-length that he is, in fact, on it.

More time is to be devoted to debating, the theory being that twenty minutes or half-an-hour—such as is allowed on the Home Service—is not long enough. As Douglas Woodruff says, one of the most significant differences between ourselves and our grandparents is that we are very impatient and will not listen. In the age of the great preachers, an hour was the normal time for a sermon. To-day, few clergymen would risk talking from the pulpit for more than twenty-five minutes. The heads of the Third Programme realised before they started it that they were bound to be criticised for making no effort to appeal to everybody all the time, nor to attempt to be all things to all men. It is their determination, however, to appeal to those listeners who disliked being "talked at," and who demand "performance" and nothing else, who find popular explanations both condescending and irritating.

The planning of the Third Programme is much easier than that of the others, by virtue of its main characteristic of supplying large slabs of subject-matter instead of having to create a kind of jig-saw puzzle of small items, with everything fitting neatly into everything else. On the other hand, buffer periods are necessary between, for example, the acts of a five-hour play. Ideally, these periods should be filled with the appropriate music which would be played in the intervals if the listener were actually at the theatre. As it is, Messrs. Barnes and Amyot have decided that the best thing to do is to encourage the listener to go off and have his dinner at home between the first and second acts, and then, metaphorically or in fact, to have a whisky-and-soda in his own library between the subsequent acts. At the moment, the "intervals for refreshment," as they say at the Players Theatre, are not long enough.

Every week time is devoted on the Third Programme to such subjects as sculpture, painting and architecture, and it would not surprise me if, later on, arts and crafts were also given a show. Something about William Morris, or Ruskin, or even Dartington Hall, would make a good vehicle for appealing to this type of listener.

Current affairs are not, of course, easy to handle in a programme of this sort. The difficulty is to make them genuinely current. At the moment Mr. George Barnes is toying with the idea of having impromptu interviews with visiting celebrities, on the lines of Mary Margaret McBride's exceedingly popular feature on N.B.C. in the United States. I figured on one of these programmes myself last April and realise that the effect on the listener is very much better if the interview-ee is not reading from a script. Anybody who has ever listened to "In Town To-night" will know what I mean. It takes a professional actor or actress to talk from a script without apparently doing so. The average amateur on the air is obviously reading, often painfully, from sheets of paper.

Next week, subject of course to revision, the Third Programme gives the fourth of a series of eight talks about archæology, and *Romeo and Juliet*—by the way, plans are being made to give a cycle of Shakespeare's historical plays—and a talk on individual and mass psychology. A radio version of *The Compleat Angler*, a radio version of the translation of one of Anatole France's less-known works, a presentation of Savonarola Brown by Max Beerbohm, and a poetry reading from Browning are among the features in the early part of next week's programmes. This also includes a talk on the atom bomb, which personally bores me in advance. It has already been done so well, and at such length. This time the programme "presents a sober picture of the possibilities of this new source of power, both for good and evil, including a detailed impression of what would happen if a bomb were dropped on Piccadilly Circus, and some indication for its uses in time of peace."

This sounds rather like the stunt which made Orson Welles famous and sent half the citizens of New York rushing to the telephone to ring up the police. In which connection, the Third Programme would be more ready to secure a serious actor like Orson Welles to give a talk on some technical side of the film industry, than to feature Miss Grable.

At the moment the Third Programme starts at 6 p.m. and continues until midnight, or even slightly after. There is little question of the programme beginning earlier in the evening, though it might be a good plan to start an ordinary play at 8.30 p.m. instead of seven o'clock or so. What seems a pity, however, is that Sunday afternoons are not utilised at all, in spite of the fact that the selective listeners who—I presume—are mostly over fifty and with a high proportion of women among them, would surely welcome an extension of the programme to fill the blank of the Sabbath after luncheon.

As I say, public reaction to the Third Programme has not been ascertained as yet, but I can quote Harry S. Pepper—the leading light of the Light Programme—who said to me in all seriousness: "I'd sooner be the office-boy in the Third Programme than have my present job."

ROYAL PRE-VIEW OF THE ROYAL PICTURES: Sir Alfred Munnings, President of the Royal Academy, conducting the Queen, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret round the galleries at Burlington House when they paid a special visit before opening day to the Exhibition of the King's Pictures. The display consists of 500 paintings from the Royal Palaces, and includes a number of works which are normally not accessible to the general public. Of particular importance in the collection are pictures bought by George IV, who, as King, Prince Regent and Prince of Wales, was perhaps our most lavish royal patron of the arts. One of the gems of the Royal collection is "St. George and the Dragon," by Rubens, which originally belonged to Charles I and, after being hidden during the Commonwealth, was bought by the Prince Regent in 1814, the year before Waterloo

THE CONCERT PLATFORM

Musical Events in London and Paris

MARJORIE LAWRENCE IN PARIS : She sang at the Palais de Chaillot for the benefit of French penicillin centres. The famous soprano of the Metropolitan Opera, New York, made a special journey to France to sing at the "Gala of the Penicillin." She is gradually recovering from the infantile paralysis that struck her a few years ago, but must still remain seated at the concert platform. Behind her is Mr. Wolf, who conducted the orchestra. Miss Lawrence toured the West Coast of the United States early this year

LISTENING TO THE FIRST LONDON PERFORMANCE OF "CORROBBOREE" AT THE ALBERT HALL : The father and the wife of Eugene Goossens, the conductor, sit either side of John Antill, the composer. Eugene Goossens, the distinguished conductor and composer, toured Australia recently and discovered a young Australian composer, John Antill, whose ballet suite *Corrobboree* had a great reception in Sydney. Mr. Goossens decided to introduce the work to England and gave it its first London performance at the Albert Hall last month. *Corrobboree* is a ballet suite based on the ceremonial dances of the Australian aborigines, and contains much original instrumentation and use of percussion. The original score includes orchestral singers who chant the story of the suite and who clash shields and sticks, but these were not used in Mr. Goossens' rendering. Rhythm was emphasised further by the use of a vibraphone and by the double-bass players who plucked the strings with both hands, so that the effect was visual as well as aural

GRACE MOORE IN LONDON : The famous American opera and film star had a great reception at the Albert Hall, and sang several encores. Last June, when Miss Moore was to have given a recital at the Albert Hall in aid of the National Appeal for Boys' Clubs, she was prevented from doing so by an attack of laryngitis. On that occasion, Marjorie Lawrence, whose picture is on the left, generously took her place for the concert

JOHN ANTILL, COMPOSER OF "CORROBBOREE," AND EUGENE GOOSSENS, CONDUCTOR OF THE LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AT THE ALBERT HALL : The young composer flew from Sydney to hear the first performance outside Australia of his ballet suite

The World of Books—By Vernon Fane

PORTRAIT of the FOREIGN SECRETARY

Mr. Trevor Evans' Biography of Ernest Bevin Which Nearly Never Saw the Light of Day

WE are told that Mr. Trevor Evans, the author of BEVIN (George Allen and Unwin. 10s. 6d.), "has secured the wholehearted co-operation of some of Bevin's close associates" in the compilation of this book. The amount of co-operation Mr. Trevor Evans received from Mr. Ernest Bevin himself is revealed in the chapter in which the author describes in detail his visit to the Foreign Secretary "on the evening the world was told that he was about to visit Moscow."

"It was not a normal consultation. There was little co-operation about it." The manuscript had been submitted to the Foreign Secretary and the author was calling on him to discuss it. "Mr. Bevin, it was said, did not want any biography written about him because in his new position as Foreign Secretary, a distortion of the man might lead to a misappreciation of his country's policy. There never had been a biography of Ernest Bevin. The first approved outline of his life would be contained, sometime, in an autobiography. Attempts had been made previously at biographies—they had not been published.

"Further, he would want to know why I wanted to write about him. This was the most natural suggestion of all. This was in line with the famous Bevin search for motive. Bevin has lived such a life of controversy that he finds it difficult to believe he can be the object of detachment. He has some right to this belief. There is nothing negative or passive about Bevin. Those who know him are hearty in their approval or disapproval. Bevin bases nearly all his actions and sayings on his principles. He believes men should go through life guided by principles. He describes his critics as 'irresponsible' when he really means they are not guided by the right principles. He is constantly on the watch for the motives of others."

Mr. Trevor Evans confesses that his professional pride as a newspaper-man suffered a reverse in this interview. He counted it a howling failure. But the author should take comfort that this only serves to confirm the characteristics of a remarkable man whose career and personality he depicts so brilliantly in this book. His own prescience and the memories of those close associates combine to make a human portrait out of what might merely have been a factual document.

It is all here: Mr. Bevin's life as a boy on a Somersetshire farm; his entry into the Trade Union movement under the wing of Ben Tillett; how his immense organising ability was first demonstrated through his creation of the largest Trade Union in the world; his part in the General Strike; his work at the I.L.O.; his dominance of the T.U.C.; his impressive war record as a member of the War Cabinet and finally, his impressive record as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The human touches are his dislike of personal publicity; the simplicity and dignity of his private life; the almost passionate devotion of all who have worked with him; his unexpected gentleness; his knowledge of men and their motives; his elephantine memory; and the unmistakable sense of power which at all times he seems to radiate. Mr. Trevor Evans has achieved a really fine portrait of a great Englishman, and there are few who would disagree with his line that the man he has written about "mirrors the soul of millions of English people."

DOVER'S BATTLE OF BRITAIN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL: An artist's impression of the building which it is hoped to set up on the Castlemount site below Dover Castle and which will commemorate the airmen who fell in the autumn of 1940. A feature of the exterior will be the light turret which will be visible at sea and from the air. The hospital will contain over 100 beds and it is expected that it will cost £250,000—*Drawing by E. G. Lambert*

Gerald Kersh's latest book, CLEAN, BRIGHT AND SLIGHTLY OILED (Heinemann. 7s. 6d.), is in its way an important addition to his work as a whole. It is not a war book and it has nothing to do with horrors at home or abroad. In fact, it is simply a book of anecdotes about soldiers and sketches of the life a soldier leads in quarters on home service. But as such it is incomparable. Kersh takes you into the modern hut, and you hear his pals in the Brigade of Guards at Pirbright talking to him. For this, one feels, must really be *how* they talk, and *how* their minds work. You are with him in the N.A.A.F.I.; you hear about the other fellows' wives; and, of course, you meet the Sergeant.

The title does not refer to one of Kersh's comrades on the evening after pay parade. It was the bolt of his rifle which should have been "clean, bright and slightly oiled," that bolt which Kersh forgot when he went on parade, with a result that only a Bateman could portray.

No writer besides Gerald Kersh, either in this war or the last, has been able to get inside the soldier's skin as Kersh has done. Kipling did it, of course, for the old soldiers sweltering in India in the '80's, and Edgar Wallace did it for the men who fought on the veldt. But in World War No. 2, Kersh can claim the laurels, and this book shows how well it can be done.

Mr. Walter Allen's new novel alternates between the subtle and the sordid. It is the story of a young man, ugly, fat and diabolically mischievous, who visits some friends in Devon and contrives to set their whole family by the ears, to unearth an old scandal and finally to make things so uncomfortable that he has to leave the place in a hurry. Even for a born meddler he had stirred up almost too much trouble, and the only good thing that could be said to have come out of his visit and of his machinations and seductions was the more complete knowledge that each member of the family had about themselves and, more perilously, about each other.

Apart from the dubiously entertaining matter of the story, however, is the fact that Mr. Allen writes really rather well and that ROGUE ELEPHANT (Michael Joseph. 10s. 6d.) is not a negligible novel.

HOUSE UNDER MARS (Heinemann. 8s. 6d.) is a novel which the publishers tell us might also be called *Flatlets to Let*. I'm sure that the second, less grandiloquent and rather commonplace title would have been more suitable for a book which has all Miss Norah Hoult's genius for characterisation. It is one of those stories which concern a group of people, very different from each other in most ways and yet brought together by chance into the same kind of life and the same house. This is a boarding-house run during the war by a young housekeeper whose husband is in the Royal Air Force, and who has one child and is expecting another. Principally it is her story, or, more exactly, the account of her daily problems and her little ambitions which is the connecting thread on which the contrasting stories of the various lodgers are strung.

Miss Hoult writes with sincerity, but there is little progression to her story, and although individual pictures are good, the whole thing lacks force and meaning that is surprising with this really gifted author.

SHORTER REVIEWS

of Some of the Latest Books

Arthur Koestler is in the news.

A translation of his book, *Darkness at Noon*, which flays the Soviet system, was published last month in Paris. The French Communists, determined to keep the book out of the hands of the general public, invaded the bookshops and bought up all the copies they could lay hands on. The gratified publishers announced, as a result, net sales of 250,000 copies.

Koestler's latest book, THIEVES IN THE NIGHT (Macmillan. 10s. 6d.), is not likely to have the same spectacular financial success, but the author, in telling the story of a Hebrew Communistic settlement in Palestine, dramatises with brilliance the great human problems involved. Koestler knows what he is writing about; for this Hungarian-born citizen once worked on a Palestinian farm, but some may aver that his particular slant upon the problems of the world is the product of abiding bitterness, and that it may be well to view Koestler's writings in the light of his stormy experiences. The author is at his best in depicting the everyday life of the settlement.

In those tragic, hectic days of May 1940, when the fog of war so truly enveloped the Western Front, when refugees streamed across the Belgian border into Artois, seeking the sanctuary of French soil, Sir Lancelot Oliphant, British Ambassador in Brussels, was himself a fugitive from Nazi might. As the Germans thrust across the Escaut to the Somme, embracing the British Army in the great enveloping movement which ended at St. Valery and the sea, Sir Lancelot arrived on the outskirts of Abbeville, only to learn that the German medium artillery was ensconced on the hill of St. Riquier, that motor-cycle patrols were penetrating burning Abbeville, and that the bridges of the Somme were in danger. Realising his virtual encirclement, Sir Lancelot doubled back towards Port Mahon. The Ambassador fell eventually into German hands, thereafter receiving far from ambassadorial treatment. Sir Lancelot's account of his experiences is told in AN AMBASSADOR IN BONDS (Putnam. 17s. 6d.), and the story of his eighteen months in custody in Cologne, Berlin, Dresden and Bad Neuenhahr provides a revealing glimpse of Germany in the first months of European triumph. Despite their successes, the author reveals that the Germans in these early days were beset by a feeling of insecurity. They could hardly believe in their own good luck.

Scarlett O'Hara has a rival in Sawyer Bolton, the beautiful, hot-blooded and hot-tempered girl who takes the stage as heroine in Noel Houston's THE GREAT PROMISE (Francis Aldor. 12s. 6d.), a best-seller in the United States which has as its theme America at the turn of the century, the America of Mark Hanna, of red plush and speculation, of railroad and land fever, and of the age of Big Business. This all makes first-rate reading, and, if none of it is really very important, the background has the authentic touch.

John Brophy has a dozen or more novels to his credit and must now be reckoned one of our most accomplished novelists by reason of his mastery of language and ability to sustain a story to the end. His latest novel, CITY OF DEPARTURES (Collins. 9s. 6d.), has its setting in Liverpool, and is the story of three ambitious young men, born and bred in the city, who make a pact to meet again in Liverpool a quarter of a century later. The day of reunion arrives in ironic circumstances, and the two who have "succeeded" find themselves involved in the domestic problems of the one who has "failed." Mr. Brophy handles the material with much skill, and the chapters in which he touches upon the impact of American soldiery on Britain's wartime population are in the author's most powerfully descriptive vein.

The Basilisk of St. James, a brilliant study of Dean Swift, drew attention to the work of Elizabeth Myers, a bold and distinguished prose writer. She has now written MRS. CHRISTOPHER (Chapman and Hall. 8s. 6d.). In some ways it is an allegorical novel, Mrs. Christopher being the embodiment of universal comradely love; and in the other three main characters may be seen the forces which most readily betray that love. The book is written with true poetic observation, and is full of strange, unlooked-for situations.

It is remarkable that until now there should have been no comprehensive book on the leather industry, though this is one of the oldest and most important of our crafts. Mr. John Waterer has now made good the deficiency, and in a superbly-produced volume, LEATHER IN LIFE, ART AND INDUSTRY (Faber and Faber. 50s.), he has covered this fascinating subject with rare thoroughness. The book is packed with illustrations of past and present leatherwork, and the historical chapters on the old leather crafts are followed by treatises on modern bookbinding, saddlery, fancy leather goods, footwear and luggage. The book is a superb example of fine printing and binding.

THE KING IS IN HIS COUNTING HOUSE (The Alden Press. 5s. 6d.) has as its sub-title "A Prospect for Oxford." The author, Thomas Rayson, puts forward a scheme for replanning the ancient city, including the re-siting of the unsightly railway station.

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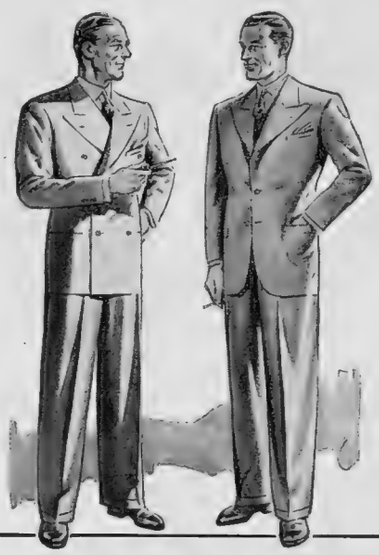

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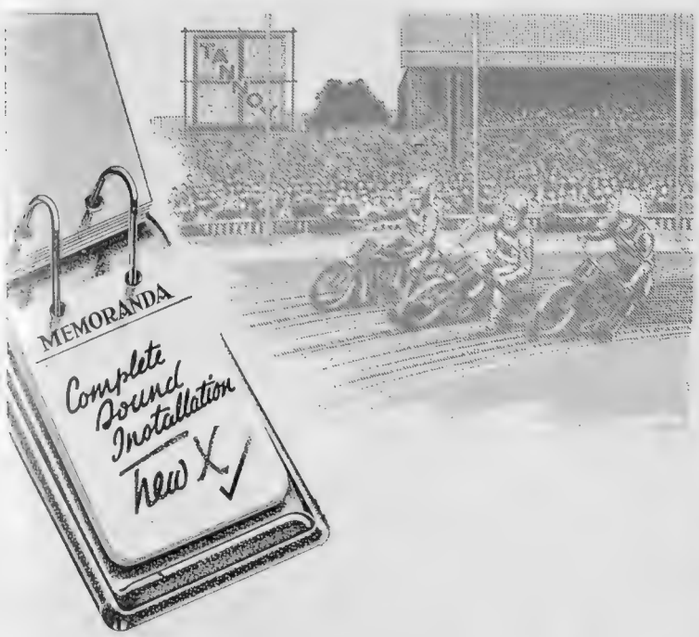

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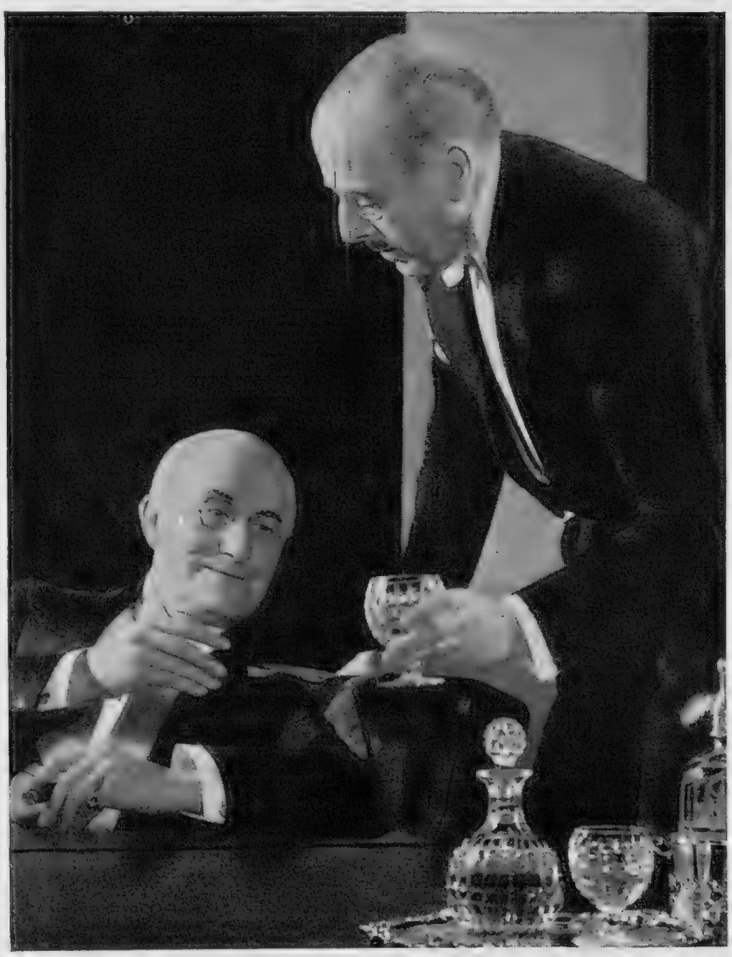

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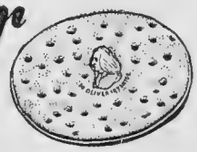

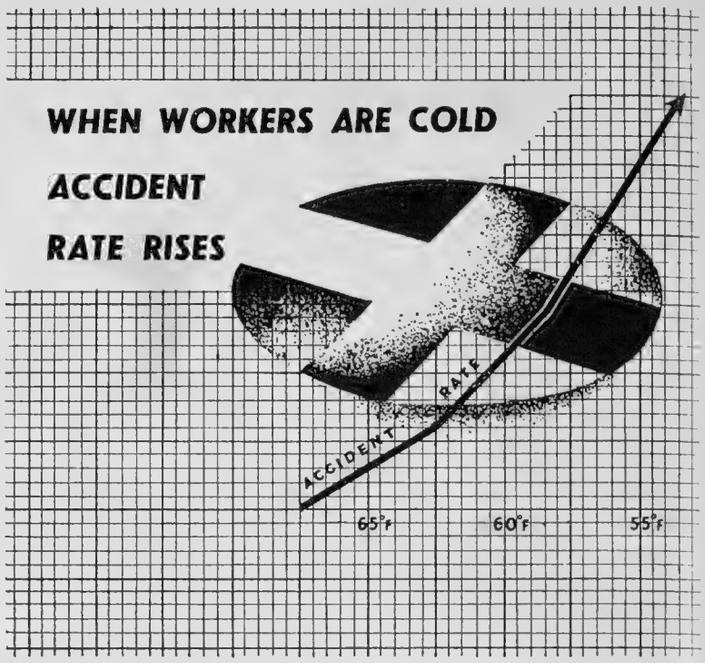

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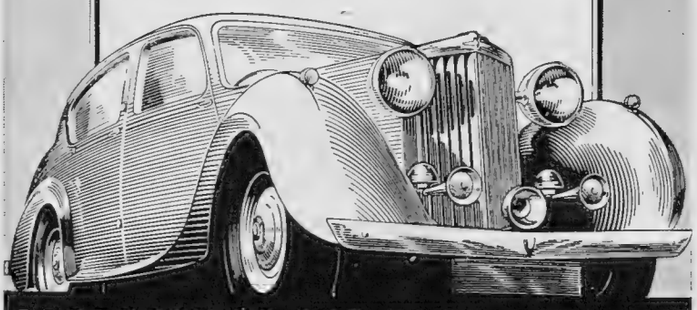

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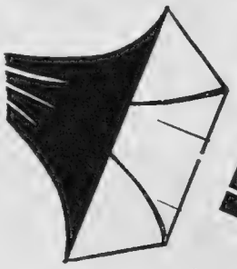

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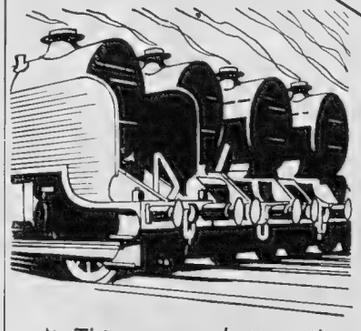

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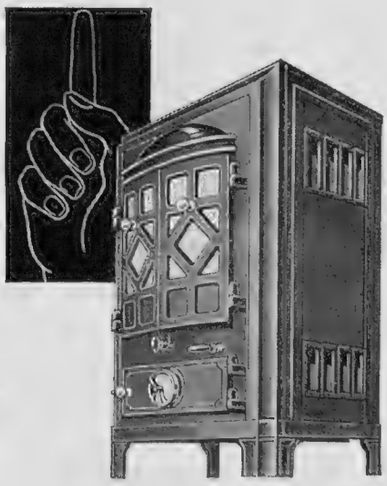

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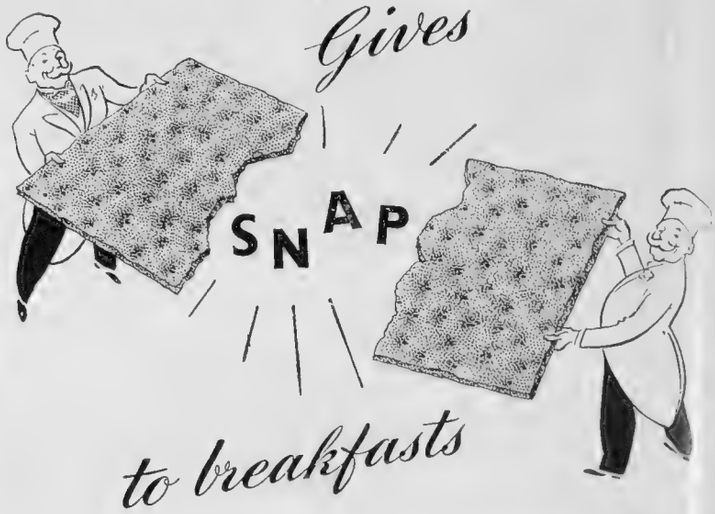

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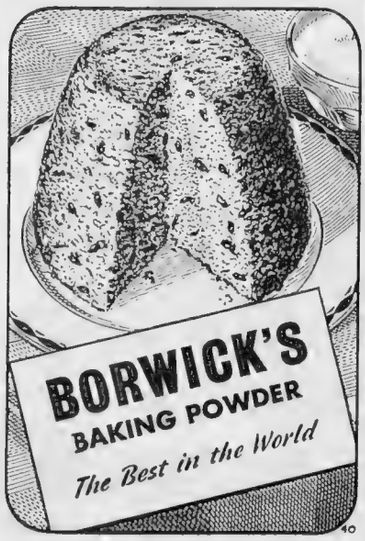

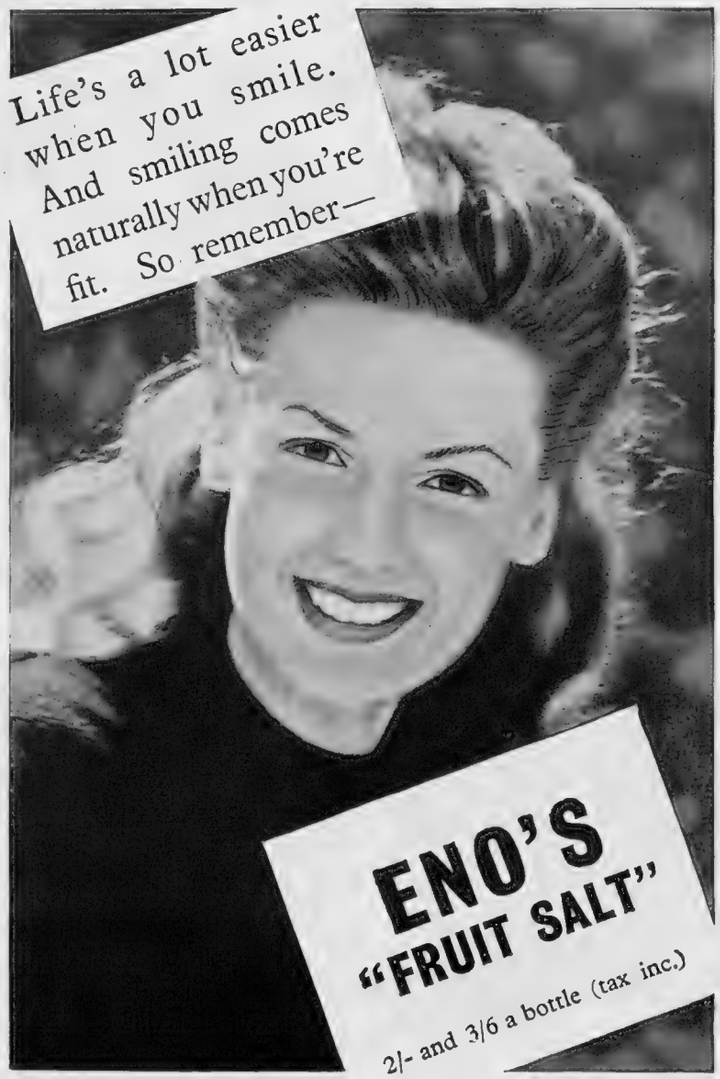

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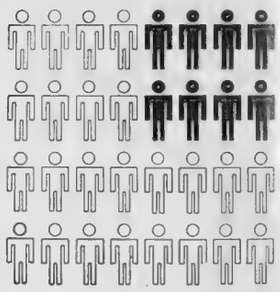

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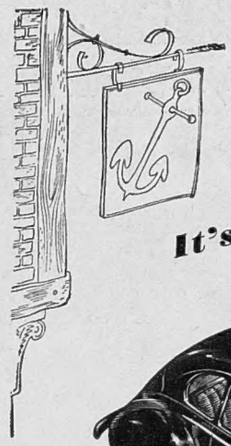

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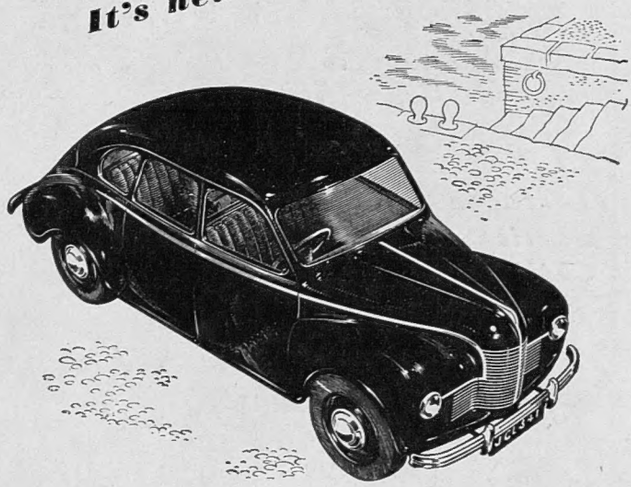

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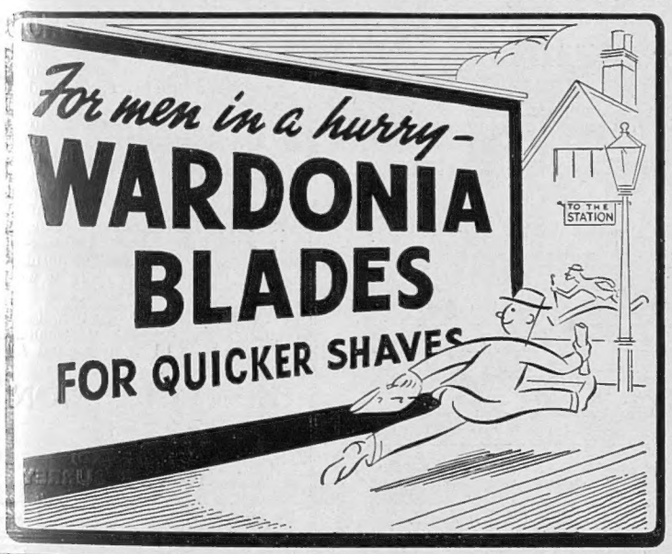

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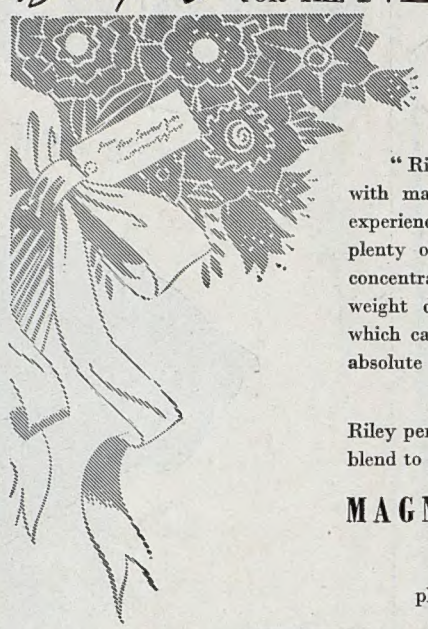

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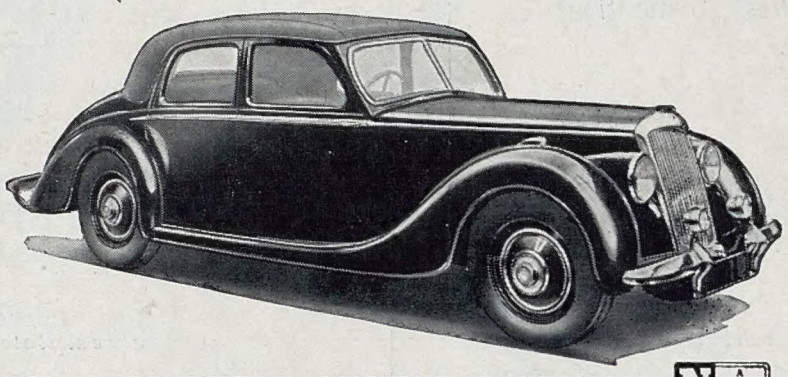

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